



March 4th, 2022

**Testimony of Conni Strittmatter, Youth & Family Engagement Manager
Baltimore County Public Library**

HB 1233

Public Schools – Health and Vision Services – Required Screenings and Eye Examinations

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Conni Strittmatter – I am the Youth & Family Engagement Manager for Baltimore County Public Library. During my time in this position, I have worked closely with the organization Vision to Learn to offer eye exams for children throughout our county during the summer so they can enter school in the fall prepared to learn and succeed. Since 2018, our partnership has allowed us to provide 413 children with an eye exam, and 243 of them with prescription glasses. We know there are far more in our community and throughout Maryland who are in need – we receive calls throughout the school year asking when we will have this service again.

We know that vision is a crucial component to a child’s education. Without proper vision care, a child will fall behind quickly at school and develop other behavioral and educational needs because of it.

I, and Baltimore County Public Library, wholeheartedly support HB 1233 *Public Schools – Health and Vision Services – Required Screening and Eye Examinations*. This bill would create additional structures to identify the children who need an eye exam, and would provide the needed resources for an organization like Vision to Learn to provide eye exams in times of need.

Thank you for taking my views on this bill into consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Conni Strittmatter', is written over a horizontal line.

Conni Strittmatter
Youth & Family Engagement Manager
Baltimore County Public Library
320 York Rd
Baltimore, MD 21204