

**Nonpublic Education - Special Education Placements  
Teacher Salaries (Teacher Pay Parity Act)**

February 7, 2023

Dear Legislative Leaders,

Please pass legislation that will enable parity in teacher pay in non-public special educational settings. This is some of the most difficult work, serving some of the most challenging clinical and educational situations, in the State of Maryland and beyond.

We need to attract and keep good people that can take on these high-demand service challenges. Without question, equity in salaries is a significant factor in achieving stability in this service sector.

**Failure to pass this bill will limit what we can give to those in significant need – students, families, and communities. It is also important to stress that supporting this service sector will also limit placements into inappropriate settings and reduce crisis situations, such as repeated psychiatric hospitalizations, emergency visits to the Emergency Room, entry into the prison system, homelessness, to name a few.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Charles J. Durgin, MS, MEd*

Adult and Community Service Coordinator

Kennedy Krieger Institute

Baltimore, MD

Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Education and Human Development

The George Washington University

Washington, DC