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Written Testimony  
Before the  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Supporting  
Senate Bill 40 (Driver Education and Career Education Act of 2024)

January 16, 2024

I write on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc. (CPSTS) in support of the Driver Education and Career Education Act of 2024 (“SB 40”).

The purpose SB 40 is to provide funding for a driver’s education program for new drivers to acquire the knowledge and skills to become safe drivers. To prepare students for college, career, and job readiness, as well as meet the requirements of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, youth must complete driver’s education, which is not provided in Maryland schools. SB 40 will:

- Teach new drivers about how to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Ensure new drivers learn about the State’s motor vehicle laws.
- Provide defensive driving instruction, learn traffic laws, techniques, and accident types to avoid accidents occurring.
- Teach the responsibilities of being a driver, so that they will be more cautious when they are on the road to reduce liability risks.
- Help youth attain their college and career goals.

A driver’s license is a credential for career readiness as well as a condition of employment in many careers. Since 2013, CPSTS has been providing free driver education scholarships to high school students. The mission of CPSTS is to educate, advocate, and foster the development of public safety and career technical training in schools and support workforce development for the benefit of the local community and society.

The appropriations from SB 40 will help CPSTS implement programs and supportive services to benefit at risk, low-income, and underserved youth:

- Career Development through pre-apprenticeships
- Career Shadowing Opportunities in the Public Safety Sector
- Mentoring
- Driver's License Credentialing
- Individual Counseling
- Educational and Informational Field Trips

Since February 2016, CPSTS has awarded 465 driver's education scholarships to students in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. Of those scholarships recipients, 54 students were fire cadets and became career firefighters. CPSTS funded the scholarships through grants and private donations.

A multi-year appropriation will sustain CPSTS services in the community and ensure our youth continue to receive the support they need to be successful.

CPSTS asks you return a favorable report on SB 40.

Respectfully Submitted,

//signed//

Carolyn Boston

President

Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc.