

Dear Senators Elfreth, Gile, Jackson, Kramer, Lam, Salling, A. Washington, Hettleman, and M. Washington,

I'm writing this email to advocate for National Board pay increases for all National Board Certified teachers in our district, including Literacy Teachers and school counseling positions. We all strive to provide the best instruction and support for our students and should not be excluded from the funding.

I am a Literacy Teacher at an Annapolis area elementary school. I support and coach our teachers, lead collaborative planning and professional development sessions for our staff, and analyze data that directly impacts our students. In addition to this role, I also provide reading intervention for many of our students. This year I have five intervention groups and I help support a fourth-grade class with their reading block, along with helping classroom teachers and special education teachers implement their interventions. Whether teaching or modeling in another teacher's classroom or in a small group, I work directly with students for the majority of my day.

As the Literacy Teacher, I administer assessments, including DIBELS, for the Maryland Blueprint and the "Ready to Read" Senate Bill, as a *certified teacher*. I interpret and analyze this data with teachers and support them in providing the best instruction for ALL students. I communicate to families their children's scores and provide support on how to help at home.

Literacy Teachers work just as hard as any other classroom teachers or intervention teachers in the county. Whether it's stated explicitly in our job description or not, Literacy Teachers are the ones who are relied on to help our neediest students at schools who have no intervention position (and those that do!). We support all students directly and indirectly.

Last school year National Board Certified Literacy Teachers received a pay cut since our stipend for National Board certification expired. We continue in a position that we love and dedicate each day to helping students succeed in reading AND teachers succeed in teaching all students to read and write. Literacy Teachers deserve to be included in the pay increase. Please continue the fight for all National Board Certified teachers to receive the pay increase. We ALL deserve it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Ells

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