

February 2024



The Connection

The State of the State is Strong!

As the first month of Session has come to an end, the legislature is working hard to pass measures that will protect the rights of Marylanders and represent them as best as possible. I am honored to serve you in Annapolis and continue to fight for the safety and wellbeing of my constituents.

We are working diligently to pass legislation in the House. Currently, we have over 1,400 bills to look over, which is no small feat! There are a few pieces of legislation of which I am the sponsor. I have outlined two specific bills that I am supporting below, along with some information about my district scholarship and ways you can contact me.



My constituents are of the utmost importance to me: without you, we would not be able to . I encourage you to reach out with anything I can support you with: I am always more than happy to help.

Best,
Eric Ebersole

District 44 “An Evening in Annapolis”

On **February 26 at 6pm**, join Team44 for a **free** night in Annapolis during Maryland’s 446th Legislative Session! Expect lively conversation, delicious food, and an opportunity to view the floor session in the gallery (and perhaps a *shoutout* on the House floor)! To **register** and view more details, including **provided transportation**, please click [here](#).

The Freedom to Read Act ([HB 785](#))



Earlier this session, I helped shut down a bill looking to implement the type of “book banning” that we are seeing in many states throughout the country. There must be a diverse, inclusive pool of books in our libraries; not a broad censorship standard.

In order to ensure that Maryland’s libraries will always provide library materials and services for all individuals without exclusion based on origin, views, or partisan disapproval, I am proud to co-sponsor HB 785 – The Freedom to Read Act. By setting standards that promote an inclusive environment and open access to

information, this bill will preserve the diverse perspectives in our libraries while also challenging the attempts at censorship that are too common today.

The challenges faced by our libraries are not limited to censorship, however. Many states have passed laws that threaten penalties – often as harsh as prison – upon librarians for refusing to remove the “banned book of the day” from circulation. The Freedom to Read Act ensures that this will never happen in the State of Maryland by providing librarians protection against retaliation for acting in accordance with the standards outlined above

The Freedom to Read Act is legislation that puts Maryland in the driver’s seat in the fight against book banning and censorship. I am excited to support this bill as a co-sponsor.

Tax Assistance for Low Income Marylanders ([HB451](#))

As tax season is upon us, I understand the stress and hardships that can come with navigating and filing your taxes. With that, I am proud to support HB451, The Tax Assistance for Low Income Marylanders Funding Bill, introduced by the Speaker of the House. This bill will restore funding to the Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) in Maryland Campaign for low-income tax clinics and services. The CASH Campaign offers free tax preparation services for low-income Marylanders, and this bill would launch a grant program dedicated to funding mobile and on-demand tax clinics for rural, senior, and underserved communities. Furthermore, the bill would reinstate the distribution of abandoned property funds to low-income tax services, increasing the funding from \$250,000 to \$500,000.



Far too many Marylanders are unable to afford tax services and there are far too few tax clinics to benefit communities. Filing taxes can often be arduous for marginalized communities to navigate, whether they are not

within reach or inaccessible by public transportation. This bill would allow the CASH campaign to direct \$150,000 directly to mobile and on-demand tax clinics so that they may reach all communities and ensure every Marylander has the ability to file their taxes without stress.

I am proud to support this bill and help the CASH Campaign continue their hard work, assisting low-income Marylanders with their taxes this year.

My Committee Assignments and Leadership Roles

- Member, Ways and Means Committee
- Chair, Education Subcommittee
- Member, Early Childhood Subcommittee
- Chair, Baltimore County House Delegation
- Member, Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
- Member, Apprenticeship 2030 Commission
- Board Member - Coalition of Coordinated Community Behavioral Health Supports
- Advisory Board - MD Center for School Safety
- Commissioner - Education Commission of the States
- Community Leadership Board - Catonsville Y
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It is an honor to serve you.

Thank you for continuing to place your trust in me to serve our community in the Maryland General Assembly. My team remains focused on continuing to push our legislative priorities alongside timely and effective constituent support. If there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact my office via email or phone. You will receive a prompt response.

Do reach out to my office for any comments, questions, or concerns. You will receive a prompt response.

Best,
Eric Ebersole



Contact Me:

O: 410-841-3328

Email: eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us
