



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE CONNECTION

A PERIODIC UPDATE ON HAPPENINGS –
FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY TO ANNAPOLIS



**ERIC
EBERSOLE**
MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
DISTRICT 44A

DELEGATE ERIC EBERSOLE

6 Bladen Street – Rm. 305
Annapolis, MD 21401

eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us
410-841-3328

www.eric.ebersole.org

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We recently heard testimony on **HB 504**, proposed by the Governor, that would make significant reductions to the vital and increasingly successful Blueprint for Maryland's Future. I generally feel we need to stay the course. Several legislators have suggested pauses in the programs, but the children that are in school right now cannot wait. We owe them the good education we have promised. And the Blueprint is working! NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) scores are increasing. Our ranking nationally is improving. I was pleased to be joined by Current Chair of Baltimore County School Board Jane Lichter, Immediate Past Chair Tiara Booker-Dwyer, and Superintendent Dr. Myriam Rogers. Dr. Rogers gave a moving testimony. As chair of the Education Subcommittee, I will be working hard to preserve the Blueprint, keeping in mind the current fiscal challenges. I have many productive amendments planned.



I am pleased to have been appointed by Speaker Jones to be a board member on the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. I have been serving on it for 2 years now. This is a Blueprint initiative that sets aside millions of dollars to take proposals from community based mental health providers to partner with local school systems in providing services to students who need help getting mentally ready to learn. These supports can occur in school in or out of school time. Helping students to be available to learn and helping them cope with emotional and mental challenges is incredibly important. It can save lives and save the education these lives deserve. Here is a summary of the services being provided.

Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports Statewide Impact Report: March - October 2024

More than
58,000
students provided
behavioral health services



80%
of Maryland schools
(1,124) receiving
behavioral health services

475

new behavioral health workforce
members hired



Prevention Services

80% of individuals
demonstrated a desired
behavioral health skill.

754

behavioral health providers trained in
proven practices to improve student
outcomes



Targeted Services

77% of individuals
demonstrated improvement in
behavioral health outcomes.

1,185

school staff trained in behavioral
health practices to improve student
outcomes



Intensive Services

70% of individuals
demonstrated improvement in
behavioral health outcomes.

90%

students and families satisfied
with behavioral health services

Consortium Goals

1. Expand access to high-quality behavioral health and related services for students and families

2. Improve student wellbeing and readiness to learn

3. Foster positive classroom environments

4. Promote sustainability through revenues from Medicaid, commercial insurance, hospital community benefit, and other funding sources

I am the lead sponsor of two bills that will help **protect those who engage in sports wagering**. This is a relatively new and legal activity in Maryland and we already have numerous personal protections – from self-exclusion to free hotlines & counseling for those who find they have difficulty resisting excessive betting. These bills go even further:

HB 922 requires – instead of merely authorizes as specified in current law – a sports wagering licensee or sports wagering operator, that advertises in the State, to contract with a licensed independent evaluator to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee's sports wagering content, sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners. In

this way, we can be sure that bettors are not being moved by advice encouraging betting a certain way, by media posts, for the benefit of the sports book and not the consumer. Also, it will protect against these touts (people who give betting advice) offering access to unlicensed, and therefore illegal, sports books

HB 1140 Prohibits an entity from operating, conducting, or promoting online sweepstakes games or supporting the operation, conducting, or promotion of online sweepstakes games. These games are often cleverly disguised casino gambling sites using "tokens" instead of money, but which largely amount to gambling chips. If people use these sites to gamble, not only are they breaking the law along with the gambling entity, but more importantly, they do not enjoy the protections against fraud that state legalization and regulation provide. In addition, the revenue we expect from wagering activity goes to illegal operators, rather than the state. This bill requires the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to deny license applications and revoke licenses and prohibits the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission from issuing a license or allowing commencement or continuing operations when they have been deemed to be more than online entertainment and are actually online wagering.



LR3596
F1
5lr3596

AN ACT concerning
Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Prohibition of Immigration Investigation and Enforcement Functions

By: Delegate Ebersole *RE*

Please answer the following questions before submitting to the Chief Clerk's Office:

Are there co-sponsors?
(Co-sponsors: Circle name and initial inside) YES NO (Please circle one)

Have you made any changes in the text or title of the bill?
(Changes in bill text or title must be reviewed by the Bill Drafting Office or Amendment Office) YES NO (Please circle one)

Changes in bill text or title reviewed by Department of Legislative Services. Reviewer's Initials

SPECIAL FLOOR ACTION

On Thursday, February 27th, I had the opportunity to meet with CASA representatives. During this meeting, we spoke about important bills related to protecting immigrants in Maryland. I am a strong supporter of immigrant families and children, and I believe in protecting these communities from the destructive power of ICE. Recently, I

introduced the bill **HB1513: Public Schools– School Security Personnel– Prohibition of Immigration Investigation and Enforcement Functions**. If passed, this bill would prohibit School Resource Officers (SROs) from working with ICE in counties that allow collaboration between county police officers and ICE through 287(g) programs. In doing so, this bill would allow Maryland to take an important step towards ensuring that immigrant children feel safe and protected while at school. One of the key elements to the success an SRO can have is to gain the trust of the students in the school. In this way they can have students see law enforcement in a different, non-threatening light – and the SRO can offer real help and advice to them. This trust building must not be eroded. I hope this legislation will help protect that trust.



<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/legislation/details/hb1513>



Have you received texts claiming that you owe money on tolls? There is a **phishing scam** occurring that is designed to trick Marylanders into paying a

fake toll debt. DriveEZ will never request money from you via text message.

Please visit https://driveezmd.com/smishing_scam/ for more information on the scam and how you may report any text messages that you may receive, and if you owe tolls, how and where to pay them in a timely and safe manner.



MARYLAND WORKERS

Impacted by Recent Federal Actions

I am incredibly concerned and frustrated by the current Federal hiring freeze and layoffs.

Maryland State Representatives and Baltimore County leaders are here to support federal workers, and we have a variety of resources available to help during this time. The Maryland State Government just issued a website directly for providing resources for Unemployment Insurance (UI), Job Search and Career Support, Job Postings, Health Coverage, Housing Resources, County Resources, Resources for Veterans, Legal Resources, and Federal Employment Rules & Regulations

Resources: <https://response.maryland.gov/federalpublicservants>. In addition, Baltimore County offers a variety of career development resources at Job and Workforce Development Centers, which you can find more information about at <https://labor.maryland.gov/county/baco/>. Overall, we are here to provide support for our federal workers.

Ribbon Cuttings

We had ribbon cuttings at one new and one relocating business in Catonsville in the past weeks. Both of these excellent additions to the Frederick Rd corridor are dedicated to good physical (and therefore mental) health.

Heartmovez at 835 Frederick Road. Heartmovez is a fitness studio that offers so much more. Their main goal is to bring the community together.

Rollingbrook Yoga studio is a community-based yoga studio that has been located in Catonsville, MD since 2010. They have just moved from the “junction” to 730 Frederick Rd #203. They offer a full spectrum of yoga classes for all levels as well as yoga with weights,



heated yoga, yoga nidra, Qigong, & Tai Chi, and more!

I commend the Catonsville Chamber of Commerce for attracting these small businesses to Catonsville, supporting them, and helping them to remain successful.



LET ME HEAR FROM YOU!

My team and I are focused on providing constituent support. If there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact my office via email or phone. You will get a prompt response.

eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us
or 410-841-3328.



Eric Ebersole
State Delegate, District 44A
House Office Building, Room 350
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 2140

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND LEADERSHIP ROLES



- **Ways and Means Committee**
- **Chair- Education Subcommittee - Ways and Means**
- **Member - Early Childhood Subcommittee - Ways and Means**
- **Chair – Baltimore County House Delegation**
- **Member - Joint Committee on Children, Youth & Families**
- **House of Delegates Representative - Education Commission of the States, State Interagency Coordinating Council, and Southern Regional Education Board**
- **Advisory Board - MD Center for School Safety**
- **Board Member – Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports**
- **Member – Apprenticeship 2030 Commission**