

MARYLAND FAIR FUNDING COALITION

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1300 and SB 1000 House Appropriations; House Ways and Means; Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs; and Senate Budget and Taxation Committees

The Maryland Fair Funding Coalition (MFFC) is a statewide coalition of 25 organizations dedicated to supporting policy proposals that improve our state tax code and raise revenue to fund our public school system.

We strongly support the significant new investments in schools outlined in the the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation. Currently, in the state of Maryland, business thrives, while our public school system has fallen from first to fifth in the nation, by some rankings, and about 60 percent of students are not considered college and career ready when they complete school.

It is clear that we need bold, comprehensive reforms, and thanks to the work of the Kirwan Commission over the last three years, we now have a blueprint to get there. We must seize this a once-in-a-generation opportunity to adequately invest our resources to create a world-class education system for *every* child in our state.

While it is not the primary focus of HB 1300 and SB 1000, the Fair Funding Coalition strongly believes this landmark legislation must be paired with significant new revenue to ensure its success. We can fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and make our tax system more equitable by eliminating corporate loopholes and tax breaks that benefit special interests and fixing our upside-down tax code, which allows the wealthiest individuals to pay the smallest share of their income in state and local taxes.

It is time for every Maryland resident to pay their fair share of taxes, especially when we are facing the need for significant new investments in our public education system. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future can only succeed if policymakers back these new with sufficient resources. With a wide range of state services already stretched thin, the best way to support needed investments in education is to reform Maryland's tax code to make it more effective and equitable.

Therefore, we urge a favorable vote on HB 1300 and SB 1000.