



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 452 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Classroom Supplies Purchased by Teachers – Alteration
House Ways and Means Committee
February 7, 2020

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB 452 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Classroom Supplies Purchased by Teachers – Alteration. My name is Donna S. Edwards and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members I offer the following comments.

Teachers are among our most dedicated public servants, and their charge is of fundamental importance to our families and our communities: The education of our children. The vast majority of educators spend their own money for classroom supplies, in order to ensure that every child under their tutelage has the resources necessary to be successful in class. According to the Economic Policy Institute, a full 95% of teachers buy supplies for the classes, spending, on average, \$459/year, with Maryland teachers spending \$492/year¹.

HB 452 is small step toward rewarding our educators for their dedication and personal contribution to our children, by increasing their subtraction modification for school supplies from \$250 to \$500. It sends an important signal to educators that Maryland will reduce their tax burden for going above and beyond for all of our children.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 452.

¹ <https://www.epi.org/blog/teachers-are-buying-school-supplies/>