



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1190  
Individual Income Tax - Rates and Rate Brackets - Alterations

Ways and Means Committee  
March 4th, 2020 - 1:00 pm

Strong Schools Maryland supports House Bill 1190 altering the state income tax brackets meant to ensure all Marylanders pay their fair share to support our public services.

Strong Schools Maryland is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization whose sole mission is to establish a world-class public education system for every student in Maryland. We are composed of thousands of volunteers and supporters in nearly every county in the state. Our supporters consist of parents, grandparents, small business owners, retirees, students, teachers, and Marylanders from every background and age. We have built support for implementing and fully funding the 10-year phase in of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations.

**It is imperative that we modernize our tax system in order to provide world-class services, including great public schools, for every Marylander. As our economy evolves, so must our tax structure. HB 1190 helps modernize our tax system and generates much needed revenue for our public schools. At a time when fewer than 40% of Maryland graduates are college or career ready, it is imperative that the Maryland General Assembly commit to generating enough revenue to cover the entire state share of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.**

A strong public school system is critical to the long term success of our state. In order to build strong schools in every Maryland community, we must implement a new, equitable, accountable, and sustainable funding formula based on the Kirwan Commission's recommendations. A sustainable funding source is critical in order to keep the promise our state has made to families as well as meet our constitutional obligation of a thorough and efficient public education system supported and maintained by taxation<sup>1</sup>. To that end, Strong Schools Maryland supports House Bill 1190 to contribute to the several sources of revenue, both current and new, that will be required to fully fund the Kirwan recommendations.

When we invest in our public schools, we make our economy stronger, we reduce crime, lower healthcare costs, and provide opportunities for all Marylanders to lead a life of their choice. It is critical that we support efforts that will help fund a public school system that will allow every child, regardless of where they live or which public school they attend, to receive a world-class education. It is not just the right and moral choice, it is the smart economic investment as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of the State of Maryland, Article 8, Section 1

**We cannot fund a 21st century education system with a 20th century tax code. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1190.**