

Support [HB0939](#)

Good afternoon Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today.

Over the past 11 months I have watched public school education in Maryland crumble. Last Spring my children were barely being taught as Maryland public schools were ill prepared to teach virtually. Although this school year has improved from last Spring, it is far from the education they received prior to the pandemic. The Maryland Teachers Unions and our local county Superintendent and Board of Education are refusing to get our children back into schools full time.

Harford County Public Schools reported to our Board of Education that in the first quarter of this year, the easiest quarter, 41.1% of Freshman received at least 1 failing grade. My daughter, a freshman at C. Milton Wright High School, who has never once in her life received a failing grade, has failed her second quarter of geometry. She is frustrated with learning virtually as these grades will ultimately impact her GPA and her ability to get into college. We have hired a tutor to work with her once a week but there really is not a substitute for in-school learning. If my daughter is struggling, I can only assume that children with IEP's and from low income families are drowning.

My son, who I enrolled in public school this year, for middle school, is watching his private school friends attend school 5 days a week, in person, since the fall. He feels isolated and upset that he isn't getting the opportunity to meet new friends in his new school.

If this bill were to be passed it would allow me financial aid to put my kids back into private school for 5 days a week in-school learning where they will have the opportunity to thrive academically and socially again.

Why should my tax dollars go toward an education system that is refusing to get our children back into the classroom full time?

Thank you for reading my testimony and I urge you to support this legislation.

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