



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 704

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM –
ESTABLISHED**

MARCH 6, 2024

SUPPORT

Maryland CAPE is our state’s chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of roughly 130,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

Maryland CAPE advocates for the provision of the tools needed for all children to succeed in life. Parents must choose the setting that is most suitable for the growth of their children. Regardless of whether that is in a public school, or if they deem a nonpublic or religious school to be that environment, the ability for a parent to be empowered with these decisions is of remarkable importance.

Governments and school systems make significant investments in each and every student to enable them to receive the education they will need to be productive members of society. Allowing parents to share in that responsibility and partnership would be in everyone’s best interests.

House Bill 704 would provide this option for Maryland parents and students by creating Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Currently, there are eight states in the U.S. that operate ESAs. In each of the states, the rate of satisfaction among those who those who have participated in surveys has been unanimously positive.

The uses that the ESA program offers can truly provide a rich and productive educational experience that is worthy of consideration.

We hope you will issue a favorable report on HB 704.