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Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 0352 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025 **In Opposition Of** Ways and Means Committee

Dear Honorable Delegate Atterbeary, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Wilkins, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA) strongly opposes HB 0352 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026).

While we acknowledge the budget deficit challenges, the shifting of pension costs to local school systems and community colleges contradicts commitments made in 2011 to correct similar measures taken during the Great Recession. This proposal would burden local jurisdictions with over \$100 million in losses while they already struggle with Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation and rising operational costs.

The assumption that local jurisdictions simply will, or even can, raise taxes to cover these shifted obligations is unrealistic. Their budgets are already severely constrained.

As retired educators whose health benefits are provided by the local school system, we are concerned that these financial pressures will force cuts affecting our healthcare coverage, for which we have no collective bargaining protection. The inevitable program and personnel reductions counties will need to make will harm educational quality throughout Maryland.

On behalf of FCRSPA's nearly 800 members, we urge you to honor your commitments to both retired and active school employees by opposing HB 0352.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Garvey

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President FCRSPA