



Calvert Retired School Personnel Association
CRSPA.Members@gmail.com
<https://www.crspa.org>

House Bill 0352
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025
In Opposition Of
House Appropriations Committee
Hearing: February 27, 2025 - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Barnes, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Chang, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the House Appropriations Committee,

Calvert Retired School Personnel Association opposes HB 0352 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025.

While we understand fully that there is a budget deficit, and that difficult decisions will have to be made, we do not agree that shifting more of the cost of providing a pension for public school system and community college employees to the 23 counties and Baltimore City is a proper or right way to balance the budget. Nor do we believe that removing the supplemental funding that was promised to the counties and City in 2011 to offset funding the pension cost shifting that was done then in response to the Great Recession is the proper or right thing to do. This serious reduction of funding and cost shifting will result in over \$100 million dollars of losses to jurisdictions already dealing with the increased costs of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and other inflationary operating costs, many of whom are already struggling to provide Maintenance of Effort for their school systems.

Legislators may think that the 24 local jurisdictions will simply raise taxes to ensure that pension costs are funded and that the other costs of the Blueprint are fully funded. Nothing is further from the truth. Asking them to pick up a tab that you promised to cover back in 2011 is unfair. Local budgets are also stretched to the limit. Decisions being made at the federal level are also deeply concerning as we do not know how those decisions will impact our state and local economies.

We also remind you that the health benefits of retired school personnel are provided by local school systems. Should those systems have to cut people or programs to cover this new cost shifting and the loss of the supplemental payment for pensions, we are concerned that our health insurance will be affected as we have no collective bargaining authority or protections. It is difficult to say what people and programs might be cut at the school system or county government level if they have to come up with hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars to cover costs that you previously promised you would cover, but there will undoubtedly be deep cuts.

On behalf of the 191 members of CRSPA, we implore you to keep your promise to us and to the active employees of our school system by opposing HB 0352.

Sincerely,

Barbara McKimmie
Barbara McKimmie
Co-President

Robert Riccardo
Robert Riccardo
Co-President

Carol Howard
Carol Howard
Legislative Committee Chair