



A Union of Professionals  
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**Written Testimony from the AFT-Maryland  
SB 4– Gaming – Sports Betting - Implementation  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
January 29, 2020**

**SUPPORT**

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. On behalf of the 20,000 state, municipal, and public education workers residing in Maryland, AFT-Maryland enthusiastically calls for a favorable report for SB 4, the bill that will call for a referendum to allow sports betting to take place in Maryland.

As the statewide organization for the Baltimore Teachers Union, as well as unions representing thousands of state employees, AFT-Maryland supports bills that will help bring badly needed revenues into the state. With increased revenues, our state will in a better position to meet the needs of our students and residents who rely on our public school systems.

Members of the committee: I am sure you are aware of the proposed policy changed introduced to you by the Kirwan Commission. This bi-partisan commission found that significant new resources must be committed to our public school systems so that Maryland can once again deliver a quality public education to all students. This particular bill allows for 20% of the proceeds from sports betting to go directly into the Education Trust Fund, which will certainly help the state fulfill its obligations to its children. A number of states have already enacted laws to allow for sports betting since the Supreme Court allowed such activities in 2018. Maryland should also ask voters to consider legalizing this activity, especially as proceeds will help pay the educational policy changes experts have demonstrated our school systems need.

It is for these reasons that we ask that this committee give a favorable report to SB 4, Gaming - Sports Betting – Implementation.