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Legislative District 14  
Montgomery County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Chair, Education, Business and  
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Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 958 - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase.**  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**March 19th, 2021**  
**11:00am**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Good afternoon Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 958 - Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution - Increase.**

The purpose of this legislation is to increase the amount of state contribution towards educating children in non-public schools and programs. The enrollment of the State's nonpublic special education schools consists primarily of public school students who are assigned to a nonpublic school due to their need for specialized services that cannot be offered by their local school system. An increase in state contribution toward these non-public schools and programs would help ensure a higher-quality education for special-needs children across Maryland.

As drafted, Senate Bill 958 would require the State contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic programs to be increased by 4% in fiscal year 2023 over the amount approved by the State Department of Education in fiscal year 2022.

This legislation would also require the State contribution to be increased in fiscal year 2023 by not less than an additional 2% or the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

The purpose of this legislation is to require an increase in the State contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic schools by 4% in fiscal year 2023 specifically to address salary issues. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 958. Thank you for your kind consideration.