



**Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,  
Appropriations Committee  
March 1, 2022**

**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

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**HB0415: UNFAVORABLE  
Operating Budget - Funding - Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **HB0415 Operating Budget - Funding - Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students**.

As a legislative platform, the Board opposes efforts that would threaten public school funding in favor of private schools such as the scholarship program, Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST), under HB0415. The bill requires the Governor to include \$10 million in FY24 and increases up to \$16 million by FY27 and each year after in the annual budget.

With total resources for education limited, diversion of public funds to private schools reduces resources available for public schools, while eroding direct accountability for tax funded educational programs. At a time when the Blueprint for Maryland's Future necessitates increased investments by our state and local funding authorities, fiscal resources should remain on ensuring the world class vision for public education.

For these reasons, we urge a UNFAVORABLE report of HB0415 from this Committee.