



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 988 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Classroom Supplies Purchased by Teachers – Alteration**  
**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**March 2, 2020**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards**  
**President**  
**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 988 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Classroom Supplies Purchased by Teachers – Alteration. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Teachers are among our most dedicated public servants, and their charge is of fundamental importance to our families and our communities: The education of our children. The vast majority of educators spend their own money for classroom supplies, in order to ensure that every child under their tutelage has the resources necessary to be successful in class. According to the Economic Policy Institute, a full 95% of teachers buy supplies for the classes, spending, on average, \$459/year, with Maryland teachers spending \$492/year<sup>1</sup>.

HB 988 is small step toward rewarding our educators for their dedication and personal contribution to our children, by increasing their subtraction modification for school supplies from \$250 to \$500. It sends an important signal to educators that Maryland will reduce their tax burden for going above and beyond for all of our children.

**We ask for a favorable report on HB 988.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epi.org/blog/teachers-are-buying-school-supplies/>