

TESTIMONY AGAINST

Testimony to the Ways and Means Committee

In opposition to

House Bill 758: Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material

February 24, 2022

Strong Schools Maryland strongly urges an unfavorable vote on House Bill 758: Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future envisions a statewide teacher workforce that is racially diverse, of the highest quality, and that has the autonomy to conduct deep work, as their many years of education, preparation, and certification suggest they deserve. The Blueprint envisions a more productive school day for teachers, with less time spent in face-to-face instruction to allow for small group tutoring, communication with families, collaborative planning with other teachers, and more.

House Bill 758 imposes a mandate that will trickle down to stress teachers out *even more* than they currently are, for very little, if any overall benefit. What’s worse is that the bill would impose fiscal mandates on local education systems, even as the Governor’s FY23 budget cuts money for the “instructional material” the bill positions as necessary to support its overall intent.

Strong Schools Maryland is of the opinion that prior to placing any additional demands on teachers and school system administrators, the Maryland General Assembly should look first to ensuring that all local school systems are adequately funded to carry out the foundational expectation we have of them. Next, when we have identified concerns to be addressed, we urge the members of the General Assembly to put those solutions forward after extensive discussion with the directly impacted population. It is quite evident that the initial step has not been conducted, as Baltimore City and Prince George’s county collectively will be short changed by \$125 million in the coming school year, if the proposed budget is allowed to stand.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill until the two above conditions have been met.

If you have questions or requests for additional information, you can email:

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