



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 709: 21st Century Financial Systems Council – Establishment**

**House Appropriations Committee
Position: Favorable**

March 14, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on House Bill 709.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state's students. This vision, of a globally competitive public education system and a re-imagining of what is possible for our students to achieve, requires investment. This Legislative Session, Strong Schools Maryland is devoting time and resources to supporting efforts of generating future revenue for long-term Blueprint funding, which includes modernizing our tax systems .

Right now, Maryland has one of the most outdated accounting systems in the country. As a result, necessary services to vendors, businesses, and nonprofits have been lacking. Replacing this system is a much-needed step toward modernizing our state government infrastructure and ensuring the Controller's office has all the resources to function effectively. This is essential to ensuring revenue generating initiatives, such as those designated to fund the Blueprint, will be implemented properly.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 709.

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