



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 707: Office of the Comptroller – Taxpayer Advocate Division**

**House Appropriations Committee
House Ways and Means 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 707.

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.

HB 707 supports this goal by creating an Office of the Taxpayer Advocate within the Comptroller's office, staffed by at least six individuals tasked with providing customer service to taxpayers. They would ensure equitable and easy tax administration and a place to go for people who feel stuck when trying to pay their taxes. This will align with the best practices of the Federal government, as well as neighboring states, and will be a strong step toward the modernization of Maryland's tax infrastructure, which inevitably affects the quality of our public school funding.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 707.

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