

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 841**  
**Local School Systems - Student Field Trips - Funding**  
**Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**March 7, 2023**  
**1:00pm**

The Baltimore Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) supports Senate Bill 841, and urges a favorable report on this bill.

Baltimore AROS gives our full support of SB 841 for the purpose of appropriation in the annual budget bill of \$500,000 for the State Department of Education to provide grants to local school systems for expenses related to student field trips to certain museums.

The Alliance to Reclaim our Schools (AROS) is a national coalition of parents, students and educators. In 2020 we formed a local chapter in Baltimore City. From November through December 2021, our coalition members conducted 11 listening sessions with over 300 students, educators and families in which they shared their thoughts about what is most needed to improve Baltimore City schools. Those conversations were organized into a draft platform of 14 items which were then voted on and prioritized by 1194 additional stakeholders who voted through our mobile voting pop ups at schools and community venues. Of the 1194 participants, 747 were students, 123 were staff, 223 were parents, and 100 were community members. As a result of this voting process, we were able to establish the following top five priorities for Baltimore City Schools.

Senate bill 841 reflects one of those top five priorities which is more resource classes, field trips and cultural experiences. This requires a commitment to dedicated funding.

**Baltimore Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 841.**