



## TESTIMONY FOR HB1219 Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023

**Bill Sponsor:** Speaker

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1219 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Maryland has a teacher shortage that is reaching crisis proportions. Many factors have led to this shortage over time, but none more effectively than the Covid pandemic. Teaching is not a high-paying occupation and it has become much more fraught with the possibility of getting Covid, and then getting long-Covid, the frustrations over masking and also having to deal with parents who have become increasingly demanding.

This bill attempts to find a solution to this crisis by attacking the problem from several angles. One of the things it does that our members find creative and forward-thinking is to offer scholarships that would then require the recipient, after graduation, to work in a high-needs school or in a grade level or content area that is experiencing a shortage of teachers.

Another important facet of this legislation is for Maryland to join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. The purpose of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact is to facilitate the licensure of teachers across the member states, which would help Maryland hire to teachers from surrounding states.

There are several other aspects of this legislation that our members find appealing, such as a dashboard to show where the shortages are and some demographics about what is causing the shortage. We find this legislation necessary to the state's ability to effectively teach our future generations and to meet the goals set out in the Blueprint.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

