



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 1219: Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023**

**Ways and Means Committee
Position: Favorable**

March 1, 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 1219: Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state's students. This includes 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.

This bill supports the vision of the Blueprint's second pillar through setting targets for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs. It also expands opportunities and removes barriers to confront the shortage of educators and the inadequate pipeline to supply Maryland teachers. We implore this committee to build Maryland's teaching capacity and work to elevate the teaching profession to fulfill the promises of the Blueprint.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1219.

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