



## Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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### House Bill 791

### In Opposition Of

### Operating Budget – Funding – Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students Appropriations Committee

Hearing: February 20, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Barnes, Chair, Delegate Chang, Vice-Chair and Committee members,

**The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) strongly opposes HB791 Operating Budget – Funding – Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students.**

We strongly oppose this legislation because we firmly believe that public funds should forward the goals of public, not private, education. The increase proposed in this bill will almost double the amount of current funding for this program. The original legislation passed with bi-partisan support. We cannot help but notice that this proposed legislation does not have that same kind of support.

The increase in money that is proposed in this bill to go towards the BOOST program can better be used by our public schools, which are tasked with providing a quality education to all students, not just the 3,250 students that benefited from the BOOST program last school year. Increasing support for public education helps promote the Maryland State Department of Education’s vision statement that says Maryland will have “a system of world-class schools.”

Maryland’s Constitution mandates a “free, fair, and adequate public education.” It does not mandate or even suggest that state funds be used to provide a private education.

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge opposition to HB 791.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls  
President

Virginia G. Crespo  
Legislative Aide