



**Testimony in SUPPORT of  
House Bill 291: Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing  
Notices and Bid Advertisements**

**Appropriations Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

January 30, 2024

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 291: Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements.**

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 transparency and community engagement. HB291 is a positive step towards our 2024 legislative priority to "Face the Future".

Currently, a school system is required to publish hearing notices and bid advertisements above a certain threshold in a local county newspaper, which can be a media source consumed minimally by affected persons in the school system or community. The proposed legislation requires school systems to also publish the notices and advertisements online, which will increase the views and perspectives offered at consequential hearings as well as more competitive offers for bid advertisements that will allow the school system to make more economically responsible choices.

As we move into a world where a majority of communications and transactions occur online, school systems must integrate with those systems to ensure they are making the best choices for the students they serve.

**For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 291.**

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