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FAVORABLE Senate Bill 766 Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee February 21, 2024

Samantha Zwerling **Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports Senate Bill 766, which would enact commonsense and fair tax reforms to raise revenue for state priorities such as public education.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, predictable revenue stream that will adequately fund both the operating and construction costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future outlines improvements to access to Pre-K and Career Technology Education, as well as expansion of the educator workforce and increased salaries to help deliver individualized instruction and recruit and retain the best workforce in the country.

MSEA believes that this bill would raise the needed revenue to ensure adequate funding for our public schools for years to come. Schools are struggling with addressing the educator shortage while also trying to serve students who need more supports and services. This bill would help the state meet its commitments to those students, staff, and community members.

MSEA strongly urges a favorable report of Senate Bill 766.

