PAUL D. CORDERMAN Legislative District 2 Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration

February 7, 2024

Senate Budget & Tax Committee Chair Guy Guzzone Vice Chair Jim Rospepe 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 552 – Operating Budget – Funding – Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 552 – Operating Budget – Funding – Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students. This bill will ensure funding in the budget for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today, or BOOST, Program.

Since 2016, this Program has shown great success in offering opportunities to students who need them the most. The vital scholarships offered through this Program go directly to low-income nonpublic school students who are eligible for the Free and Reduced Meals Program. As we learn more about the uniqueness and diversity of each student's educational needs, Programs like BOOST set children up for success and a solid future with options for more individualized experiences.

Children and their educational success are the focus of this bill. When children thrive, their families and communities can thrive as well. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 552.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Corderman District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties