

**Testimony in OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 429: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act
Budget and Taxation Committee/Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Position: Oppose

February 17, 2025

I am writing on behalf of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, the official parent-group partner of Baltimore County Public Schools. National PTA, the largest and oldest child advocacy organization in the country, comprises Congresses in every state, Councils in many counties, and local school-based PTA units. The main goal of PTA is advocacy, speaking up for every child with one voice.

PTA Council is opposed to SB429 because it would create deep cuts to funding promised under the Maryland Blueprint.

Public schools are under attack at the federal level. In Baltimore County, we also fear that the Superintendent's proposed FY2026 Operating Budget will not be fully supported by County government. This is why state funding is all the more crucial to properly compensate teachers and to provide desperately needed resources and services to schools and students.

PTA Council, and the Baltimore County Education Justice Table at which we have a seat, wholeheartedly support community schools and the wraparound services they offer to students and families. We fear that mental health supports, after-school programming, and support for multilingual students/families will be negatively impacted if this bill passes.

Please don't allow SB429 to weaken school supports provided through the Blueprint. PTA Council urges you to reject Senate Bill 429.

Sincerely,

Leslie Weber

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