

# Indivisible HoCo MD

## Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of **Senate 429: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act**

**Budget and Taxation Committee/Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**Position: Oppose**  
**February 17, 2025**

My name is Marijane Monck, and I am a retired teacher and community advocate from Columbia, MD. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the over 900 members of Indivisible Howard County comprising a number of actions teams, including the Education Action Team. We are **in strong opposition to Senate Bill 429**, which would significantly cut promised education funding under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. This bill undermines the investments our state has committed to making in our students, our teachers, and the future of our communities.

Cuts to per-pupil foundation funding nearly always result in increased class sizes. Research tells us that decreasing class size is one of the most effective ways to see student improvement.

We must recruit and retain talented educators. Salaries are not the only incentive, but they matter. Treating teachers as the professionals they are by offering professional development and time for collaboration goes a long way.

Community schools have become a necessity. Mental Health care, after-school programs, and multilingual support help students.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 429 and prioritize the future of Maryland's students - prioritize generating progressive revenue through the passage of Fair Share Maryland. Cutting funding now will have long-term consequences that harm not just our schools, but our communities as a whole. Please vote no on SB429 and stand with those who believe in fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Marijane Monck  
Education Action Team member  
Indivisible Howard County  
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