

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to
Senate Bill 429: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act**

**Budget and Taxation Committee/Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee**

**Position: Oppose
February 12, 2025**

I'm a Baltimore City resident and the parent of two children who attend a Title I community school in the City. I submit this testimony **in strong opposition to Senate Bill 429**, which would significantly cut promised funding for community schools under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Delays in funding for community schools would widen the achievement gap and leave vulnerable students without the necessary support systems they need to succeed. Schools that were promised additional resources through Concentration of Poverty grants would not see the funds when they need them most. These grants provide essential services such as mental health care and after-school programs, which have been critical in improving academic success at my children's school.

This legislation would also harm our children by reducing per-pupil foundation funding. This would mean fewer resources for classrooms, including teacher salaries, instructional materials, and critical student services. Schools like my children's that are already struggling to meet the needs of students would be forced to make tough choices, like increasing class sizes. Our school has worked hard in the past several years to limit class sizes, but this legislation would make it increasingly difficult to do so. And I fear that we would return to a time when our first grade had thirty-eight children—thirty-eight!—in one classroom. That is simply unacceptable. It is unfair to our children, and it is unfair to our teachers.

If you are serious about your promises to improve education and to support our children, please reject this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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