

**Testimony in OPPOSITION of
Senate 429/House Bill 504: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee/Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees
House Appropriations/Ways and Means Committees**

**Position: Oppose
February 19, 2025**

My name is Taylor Boren, and I am an educator from Baltimore County. I am submitting this testimony **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 will mean fewer resources for classrooms, including teacher salaries, instructional materials, and critical student services. Schools already struggling to meet the needs of students will be forced to make tough choices, like increasing class sizes. Without adequate funding, many teachers will leave the profession, making teacher shortages worse.

As a Baltimore county educator, I am seeing firsthand average class sizes of over 25 students in most elementary schools. Many, if not most, schools still struggle, as they have for years, to find enough daily sub coverage for staff absences. When this happens, it often leads to even larger class sizes as uncovered classes get split into other classrooms for all or part of the school day. In many schools this is the rule, NOT the exception. We must continue to make education a top priority and legislators must keep their funding promises to educators and students if we are to avoid a crisis.

Maryland made a commitment to improving education through the Blueprint, but SB429 weakens these efforts when schools need support the most. Rather than cutting funding, the legislature should uphold its promise to students, educators, and families by maintaining the investments that were pledged.

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,

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