



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 12, 2025**

My name is Natalie Mullens, and I am a student from Montgomery County Maryland. 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.

I have been fortunate enough to attend a STEM Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School. This program benefits from a private foundation that helps support trips and events for the students. These trips have allowed us to have firsthand experiences at facilities like Wallops Island and have supported the trips of STEM based extracurriculars. Most schools in Maryland don't have access to a foundation or alumni network like Blair's and the Blueprint for Education can help fill this crucial gap in funding to support holistic education and unique experiences for students.

I also have many peers who have met with incredible success in high school, but in order to be the incredible students they are they need the additional support of special education professionals and IEPs. Without the blueprint these programs and in turn the success of these students is in serious jeopardy.

Additionally, taking a bigger picture perspective, investing in education is a cost saving measure in the long run. People who receive more education have higher incomes, are less likely to commit crimes, and healthier. By supporting education now we are decreasing the cost of governance in the future.

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,

Natalie Mullens

Maryland Youth and Government

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