



Association of Independent
Maryland & DC Schools

March 20, 2025

Hon. Brian Feldman
Chairman
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Bill: House Bill 184
Position: Oppose

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS MD&DC) is a nonprofit organization representing independent schools throughout Maryland and Washington, DC. Since its establishment in 1967, AIMS has been dedicated to supporting its member schools by offering high-quality professional development, accreditation services, and networking opportunities. We respectfully oppose this bill.

Tuition is the primary financial resource that allows nonpublic schools to manage the diverse expenses necessary for their continued operation and upkeep. Given its importance, schools must have processes in place to handle situations where tuition payments are not fulfilled.

The tuition agreement between a school and a family is a formal and mutually understood contract. When a parent or guardian does not meet this obligation, schools should have the ability to take appropriate action to uphold the agreement. While our schools value their relationships with families, it is also important to recognize that, at times, individuals may fail to meet their financial commitments. In such instances, as rare as they may be, schools must retain reasonable measures to ensure compliance with tuition agreements. **We have little recourse otherwise and the costs will have to be shifted onto others, which is unfair.**

Many of our member schools operate under tight financial constraints, where even small unpaid balances can have a substantial impact on daily operations. Ensuring that tuition obligations are met is not only essential for financial sustainability but also upholds fairness for families who consistently fulfill their commitments in support of the school community.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Peter Baily
Executive Director
AIMS MD&DC