



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 118: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**

Ways and Means Committee

Position: Support

January 29, 2025

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which recognizes the necessity of high-quality, and diverse educators. **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 118**, which seeks to establish Maryland's participation in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC). This bill provides a crucial step toward addressing Maryland's ongoing teacher shortages, improving teacher retention, and ensuring that all students, particularly those in historically underserved communities, have access to high-quality educators.

Maryland's classrooms are facing a severe shortage of qualified educators. The current process for licensure across state lines is complex, costly, and time-consuming, leading to delays that contribute to staffing gaps and prevent schools from maximizing instructional time. Teachers often must navigate redundant exams, additional coursework, and long waits to transfer their credentials. These barriers deter qualified teachers from entering Maryland's workforce, leaving schools without the staffing needed to offer essential programs, including collaborative time for educators. Collaborative time is a key component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a critical strategy that enables teachers to plan together, share best practices, and provide more individualized support for students. But without enough staff, schools cannot fully utilize this time, which ultimately impacts student achievement.

Through the ITMC, teachers licensed in participating states will be able to transfer their credentials to Maryland without the need for redundant reexaminations or additional testing requirements. This streamlined process will help reduce delays, eliminate costly fees, and make it easier for qualified teachers to fill vacancies in Maryland's classrooms.

With the current teacher shortage, especially in high-need districts, the ITMC will help attract skilled educators and improve teacher retention by easing the licensure process. By facilitating teacher mobility, this compact will also ensure that students have access to diverse, qualified educators, which is critical to closing achievement gaps and advancing equity in education. Importantly, the ITMC does not impact Maryland's existing licensure standards but simplifies the pathway for qualified teachers from other states to contribute to our classrooms.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 118.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.