



January 30, 2026

Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee:

My name is Casey Day. I am a public school educator with more than 30 years of classroom experience, and I am from Frederick County. I am here today to urge a favorable report on House Bill 0064.

From the classroom perspective, foundational funding is not theoretical. It determines what teaching and learning actually look like every day.

In Frederick County, for many years, enrollment counts based on the prior year have left our schools underfunded by roughly 500 to 1,000 students annually. Those students are in our classrooms now, but the funding to serve them lags behind. Because counties do not receive foundational funding for the actual students sitting in classrooms, schools are forced to absorb those gaps through staffing cuts, larger class sizes, and reduced course offerings.

At my high school, some classes now exceed 40 students. I teach a computer science class with 36 brand-new programmers. This is a hands-on course that relies on frequent one-on-one support, which becomes increasingly difficult as class sizes grow.

Underfunding also creates inequities in course access. To ensure my seniors could complete required career pathway courses, I taught five different courses across just three class periods, including teaching AP Computer Science alongside beginning students in the same class. In other schools, programs simply disappear altogether. One school in our district lost its choral program entirely.

These are not issues of efficiency or effort. Educators are skilled and deeply committed, but we are not miracle workers. A funding model that lags behind enrollment and understates real classroom needs limits what even excellent teaching can accomplish.

House Bill 0064 is a responsible step to examine whether Maryland's foundational funding formula reflects the real cost of educating today's students. I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Casey Day

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