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HB 64 - Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth

House Appropriations Committee

February 3, 2026

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

Donna S. Edwards

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 64 if amended. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 64 establishes a Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth, tasked with examining how delayed enrollment counts impact school funding, analyzing the relationship between student populations and resource allocation, and developing recommendations to strengthen Maryland's educational funding systems. This work contextualizes how our public schools are funded in a way that reflects real-time student needs.

However, as currently drafted, the task force does not include a representative of the educators in Baltimore City. This exclusion leaves a critical gap in the task force's expertise and limits its ability to fully study the issues. The Baltimore Teachers Union, AFT-MD, represents several thousand Baltimore City teachers and school staff. It is essential that their voices be included on the task force.

To fix this issue, we propose the following amendment:

Pg. 1, line 19: Insert the following after (iii), moving all subsequent text down

“(iv) one representative of the American Federation of Teachers Maryland;”

Baltimore City is home to Maryland's largest urban school district, serving students who face hardships every day. The educators who work in these schools bring firsthand knowledge of enrollment fluctuations, limited resources, and funding delays, impacting students' daily experiences and long-term outcomes. We strongly believe the quality of the conversation is significantly enhanced when we include the voices of those who are grounded in Baltimore City and directly impact our school systems and students.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 64 if amended.



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