



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
House Bill 1078: Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility – Funding and Bond Authorization**

House Appropriations Committee

Position: Oppose

**March 3, 2026**

Strong Schools Maryland is a statewide network of education advocates committed to full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1078, which would authorize bonds to support the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility and redirect the first dollars from sports wagering revenue to cover the principal and interest on those bonds before those revenues flow to the Blueprint Fund and the General Fund.

Strong Schools Maryland does not take a position on the merits of the proposed stadium project. Our concern is the funding structure. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is not fully funded with dedicated, ongoing revenues. Diverting sports wagering dollars away from the Blueprint Fund undermines the State's ability to meet its commitments to students and educators.

The Department of Legislative Services has already identified a significant gap between projected Blueprint revenues and projected Blueprint expenditures through FY30. Dedicated revenues are expected to fall well short of total Blueprint costs, with the difference to be covered by general funds. That gap is substantial and ongoing. Every dollar redirected from an existing education revenue stream increases pressure on the General Fund and heightens the risk of future cuts, delays, or scaling back of Blueprint investments.

Sports wagering revenue was identified as part of the long-term funding strategy for public education. House Bill 1078 would prioritize debt service for a new facility over investments in students, educators, and classrooms. That choice moves the State further from its commitment to deliver the world-class system envisioned in the Blueprint.

Maryland cannot afford to weaken the revenue streams supporting public education while the Blueprint is still being implemented and while significant funding gaps remain. The State's first obligation must be to fully fund its constitutional responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient system of public schools.

**For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1078.**

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