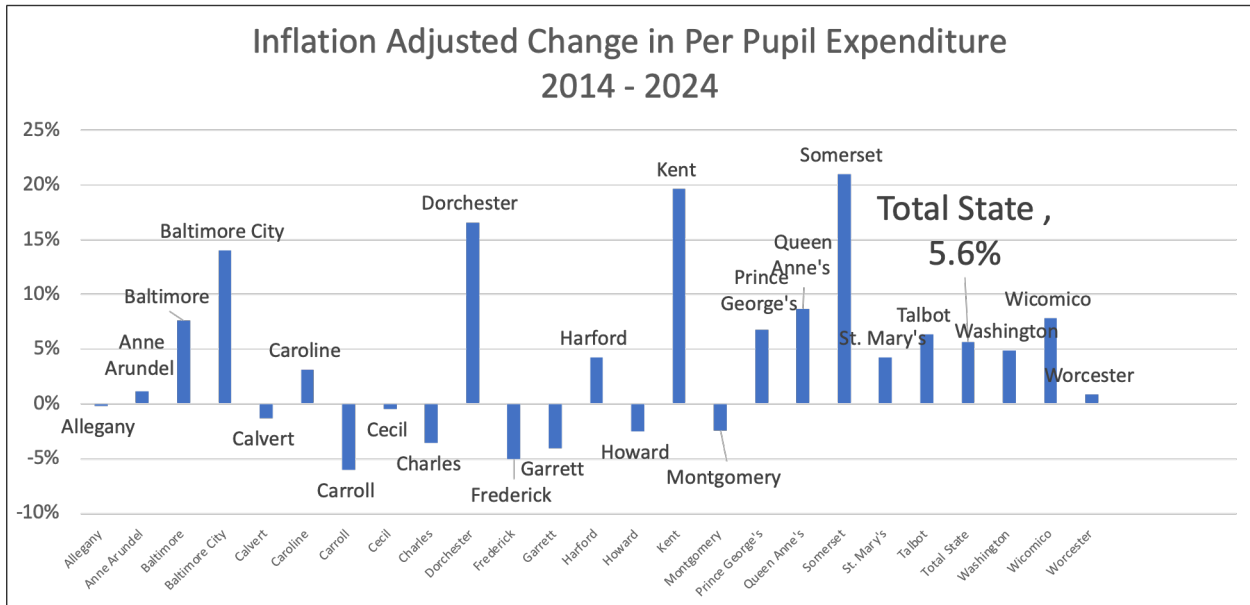


# Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0562: Maintenance of Effort Modernization

Submitted by Anthony DeBella, on behalf of the Parent Teacher Association Council of Howard County (PTACHC). PTACHC is organized under auspices of Free State PTA, and represents Howard County’s 74 individual groups (including PTA and PTSA groups) and advocates for 56,000 K-12 students represented by the enrollment counts included in Maintenance of Effort and the additional 1,500 Pre-Kindergarten students.

PTACHC supports fully funding education, and our Board Members endorse HB0562 as currently proposed. As currently defined under Education Article §5-235, Maintenance of Effort seeks to maintain steady local per-pupil funding for schools year over year. In practice, county per pupil funding that merely meets Maintenance of Effort does not account for inflation, meaning that there is no money for cost of living increases or money for additional initiatives included in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Over the past 10 years, per-pupil education spending has risen in some places and lagged in others. Updating the Maintenance of Effort statute is necessary to maintain the local funding the Blueprint counts on for continued education progress for all students.



Data derived from MSDE “Selected Financial Data” Part 4, Table 15, June 2025 and June 2024, and cumulative 30.4% inflation based on CPI-U Scale for Columbia-Baltimore-Towson from Jan 2014 (238.971) to Feb 2024 (311.665).