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**House Bill 64 – Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**February 3, 2026, 1pm**  
**Favorable with Amendments**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Baltimore Teachers Union, which represents thousands of educators serving students in Maryland’s most complex school system, we strongly support HB64, which establishes a Task Force on Education Funding and Student Population Growth. We appreciate the General Assembly’s leadership in recognizing the urgent challenges facing school systems as enrollment patterns shift and funding mechanisms lag behind student needs.

The Task Force’s charge to analyze the effects of delayed enrollment counts on school funding, examine the relationship between growing student populations and resource allocation, and recommend improvements to school funding, is both timely and necessary. In Baltimore City, educators experience firsthand the consequences of outdated enrollment projections and funding formulas: overcrowded classrooms, insufficient staffing, and delayed access to services for students who need them most. This bill is an important step toward aligning funding systems with real-time student needs.

As we recognize the bill’s importance to identifying solutions to meet student needs, we respectfully request an amendment to ensure that the unique conditions in Baltimore City are represented on the task force. As the exclusive bargaining representative for Baltimore City educators, the Baltimore Teachers Union, is formally represented in statewide contexts by AFT-Maryland. The bill currently designates task force representation for the Maryland State Education Association, which does not represent educators in Baltimore City, but rather is composed of affiliates of the remaining 23 school districts in Maryland. AFT-Maryland is the statewide organization representing Baltimore City educators that is most analogous to MSEA, and we ask that the bill be amended to include representation from both statewide organizations. The experiences and voices of Baltimore’s educators are a critical and distinct perspective grounded in the realities of educating students in the state’s largest urban district.

We request an amendment to the bill at line 19, page 1 that reads:

(iv) one representative from a statewide teachers’ organization representing teachers in at least one jurisdiction within the State for collective bargaining purposes other than the majority organization provided for in item iii of this item;

As this is how AFT-Maryland has been designated in similar situations where representation from both statewide groups is intended.

A comprehensive effort to examine enrollment growth and funding equity must include the voices of educators serving Baltimore's students. Including representation for Baltimore's educators will strengthen the Task Force's work by ensuring that its recommendations reflect the full diversity of Maryland's school systems and the lived experiences of educators in communities experiencing some of the most acute enrollment volatility and funding challenges. We urge the committee to adopt this amendment and move the bill forward favorably.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.