



**Testimony in SUPPORT of**  
**House Bill 562: Primary and Secondary Education – Maintenance of Effort – Inflation Adjustment**  
**(Maintenance of Effort Modernization Act)**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**Position: Favorable**  
February 24, 2026

Strong Schools Maryland is a statewide network of parents, educators, and advocates committed to the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill House Bill 562: Primary and Secondary Education – Maintenance of Effort – Inflation Adjustment (Maintenance of Effort Modernization Act).**

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future aims to transform Maryland’s public education system into a world class model. That transformation depends not only on strong state investment, but also sustained, predictable, and adequate local funding. Maryland’s Maintenance of Effort (MOE) law was designed to ensure that local governments maintain their fiscal commitment to public schools every year by, at minimum, matching what they invested the year prior. House Bill 562 strengthens that standard by modernizing MOE to account for inflation..

Specifically, the bill requires that county’s per-pupil contribution increase annually by an inflation adjustment defined as the lesser of:

- The increase in the implicit deflate for State and local government expenditures;
- The consumer Price Index for ALL Urban Consumers (CPI-I) for the Washington Metropolitan Area; or
- 5%.

This approach strikes a responsible balance as it caps the adjustment at 5% to ensure predictability and fiscal practicality for local governments, while tying increases to widely recognized inflation measures. In doing so, it protects public school funding from being eroded by rising costs. A flat local contribution in a period of rising costs becomes tangible funding cuts. When local funding fails to keep pace with inflation, districts are forced to make tradeoffs that weaken instructional programming, student services, utilities, transportation, staffing, and instructional materials and undermine the stability and quality of education the Blueprint seeks to guarantee.

House Bill 562 strengthens Maryland’s commitment to students by safeguarding against inflationary erosion and reinforcing the shared state and local partnership and responsibility that underpins the Blueprint.

**For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 562. For more information, contact Kenzie Funk at [kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org)**