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**ROBERT G. CASSILLY**  
Harford County Executive



**ROBERT S. McCORD**  
Director of Administration

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March 9, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 976 – Education Funding Accuracy Act

Dear Chairman Barnes and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I write to express support for House Bill 976, the Education Funding Accuracy Act.

Ensuring that education funding formulas are based on accurate and transparent student enrollment data is essential to maintaining fairness in the distribution of state education aid. House Bill 976 takes an important step toward improving the accuracy of the full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment counts used to determine funding allocations under Maryland's education funding formula.

By incorporating enrollment data that reflects student participation across multiple points in the school year rather than relying on a single snapshot in time, the bill helps ensure that funding calculations better represent the actual number of students being served by local school systems. Accurate enrollment data is critical for local governments and school systems that must plan budgets, staffing, and resources to meet the needs of their students.

The bill improves transparency by requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to publish annual reports detailing enrollment counts used for funding purposes. Providing this information to policymakers and the public strengthens accountability and helps ensure that funding decisions are based on clear, consistent data.

Harford County strongly supports efforts to improve the accuracy and transparency of the state's education funding formula. Ensuring that state aid reflects real student enrollment helps local school systems plan responsibly and ensures that resources are allocated in a fair and predictable manner.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 976.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Cassilly", is written over the "Yours truly," text.

Robert G. Cassilly