



## **HB 505 - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student School Transfers - Academic Records**

### **Documentation**

#### **Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**April 1, 2026**

#### **SUPPORT**

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 505. This bill will require schools receiving a transferring student to accept a defined set of unofficial academic documents when an official transcript or record is withheld due to a dispute.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

When a student needs to transfer to a new school and their former school refuses to provide official records during a dispute, the student suffers the consequences and can experience severe educational disruption. The lack of required formal documentation about a child's performance, coursework, or placement can lead to inappropriate grade placement, lost credits, repeated coursework, and extended time in school.

By requiring receiving schools to accept unofficial records such as report cards, standardized test results, and other evidence of academic progress when official transcripts are denied, this bill removes a structural barrier that disproportionately affects students already at risk. Students from low-income families and those who move frequently, including children in foster care or experiencing housing instability, are especially vulnerable when records are inaccessible. HB 505 ensures these children can remain in appropriate classes and continue their education without unnecessary setbacks.

HB 505 is particularly important for students who lack access to resources that can offset academic disruption. When a child is placed in the wrong grade or loses credits, low-income families may not be able to pay for tutoring, private evaluations, or other support to compensate for this disruption. As a result, students who already face barriers to stability are the ones most likely to experience long term academic harm under the current system. HB 505 promotes fair access to educational opportunities across Maryland.

***Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for HB 505.***

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*