

January 27, 2026

To the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to ask you to give a favorable review of HB 116: Education – Agreements, Procurement Contracts, and Memoranda of Understanding – Reporting and Publication.

This bill:

Requires Transparency in Spending: It requires school districts to post a clear list of all contracts on their websites. This lets parents see exactly how tax dollars are being used, from new technology to outside consultants.

Provides Easy Access for Parents: You shouldn't have to file a formal records request to get the facts. This bill ensures public transparency by putting school business deals just a few clicks away on the district's homepage.

Keeps School Boards Accountable: By requiring districts to report both the "budgeted" cost and the "actual" amount paid, it provides fiscal transparency that prevents hidden costs and ensures schools stay on budget.

Provides Transparency Regarding Outside Influences: The bill covers not just cash contracts, but also "in-kind" agreements (exchanges of services). This ensures parents know which outside organizations are partnering with their child's school.

Promotes Fairness: Publicly listing contracts makes the bidding process more competitive and honest, ensuring your child's school gets the best services for the best price through transparent competition.

Saves Time and Effort: Instead of hunting through complicated government files, parents get a single, annual report that summarizes all major school agreements in one place.

As stewards of the public education system in Maryland, it is essential that you maintain a high level of trust between school systems and parents in a state with diverse political, religious, and social beliefs. Parents are opting out of public schools for private and home-school options. This bill will help to strengthen the trust that is needed to increase the number of families that view Maryland public schools as a partner in and not an impediment to their children's development.

Sincerely,

Justin Kuk

Baltimore City Resident, Parent, and Public School Teacher