



**Testimony in Support of HB 930 - Income Tax – Decoupling From Federal Changes – Education Expenses**  
*House Ways and Means Committee*  
February 26, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice-Chair Feldmark, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably for HB 930 - Income Tax - Decoupling From Federal Changes – Education Expenses. One of the most important things we do as a state is provide free, public education to all children in Maryland. Anne Arundel County Food Bank strongly supports HB 930 because it preserves public dollars for the public good, rather than creating new public subsidies for private schools.

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank serves an average of **52,000 individuals each month** with food and critical supplies across Anne Arundel County. Demand for these services continues to rise, particularly as safety-net benefits are reduced or eliminated for households nationwide, including changes to SNAP.

Recent federal changes to SNAP are estimated to cost the State of Maryland **approximately \$58 million per year in additional administrative costs alone**, with the potential for even greater costs if benefit liabilities are shifted to the state. Food-insecure Marylanders cannot afford policy decisions that reduce state resources while simultaneously weakening access to critical safety-net programs that families rely on to meet basic needs.

HB 930 removes Maryland from two changes in the budget bill passed by Congress in July 2025 and could shift more public dollars to private schools.

One new program will give individuals a dollar-for-dollar tax write-off if they “donate” up to \$1,700 to organizations that provide students with funds for private school tuition. This proposal could funnel billions of public dollars into private schools nationwide. Governors can choose whether their states will opt into this program. HB 930 states that Maryland will not participate.

Federal tax law changes in 2017 and 2025 also expanded the uses of 529 accounts, tax-advantaged savings accounts originally intended to help families save for college. HB 930 will maintain families' ability to get a state tax break on college savings without providing the same bonus for funds used for K-12 private school tuition and other expenses.

Our state is already facing a tough road ahead to maintain public education funding that improves our schools and supports the needs of every student. We should preserve our limited public resources to support schools that are open to all. We ask the committee to make a favorable report on HB 930.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Aiello Paley".

Leah Aiello Paley, LMSW  
Chief Executive Officer