



February 2026

## **Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 455**

Education – Scholarship Granting Organizations

Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Salisbury Christian School, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 455.

Salisbury Christian School serves families who desire an education grounded in academic excellence and a distinctly Christian worldview. For many of our families, tuition represents a significant financial sacrifice. While we work diligently to provide need-based assistance, resources are limited and many deserving students face barriers to accessing the educational setting their parents believe is best for them.

Maryland's educational landscape is strengthened by the presence of both public and private schools. Public schools play an essential role in serving our communities, and private schools likewise meet the needs of thousands of Maryland families. *When families choose nonpublic education, they not only pursue the environment that best fits their child, they also help ease enrollment pressures and resource demands on local public school systems. Both sectors contribute to the overall health of education in our state.*

HB 455 would establish a clear and accountable process for certifying Scholarship Granting Organizations in Maryland, enabling private donors to contribute to student scholarships through a federally authorized tax credit program. **Importantly, this legislation does not divert funding from public schools.** Instead, it encourages private investment in students and expands opportunity without reducing state education appropriations.

If Maryland chooses to participate, this bill could meaningfully increase scholarship availability for low- and middle-income families seeking nonpublic education. For schools like ours, it would strengthen our ability to serve a diverse student body and partner with parents who are committed to their child's academic and spiritual formation but may lack the financial means.

We believe parents are best positioned to determine the educational environment that aligns with their child's needs and their family's convictions. HB 455 supports that

principle by broadening access while maintaining fairness and balance within Maryland's education system.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued service to the families of Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven M. Lamkin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Steven M. Lamkin, Ed.D.  
Head of School  
Salisbury Christian School