

**Testimony in Support of HB930 – Income Tax – Decoupling from Federal Changes –
Education Expenses**

Ways and Means Committee

February 26, 2026

FAVORABLE

Free State PTA (FSPTA) represents over 70,000 volunteer members and families in over 500 public schools. As the state's premier and largest child advocacy organization, Free State PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. ***We are offering a favorable testimony in support of House Bill 930.***

This legislation protects Maryland's long-standing commitment to strong, equitable public schools and ensures that state tax policy remains aligned with that priority. Maryland's public schools serve the vast majority of our children and educate every student, regardless of income, disability, language proficiency, or background. The federal tax credit scholarship program for elementary and secondary education functions similarly to vouchers and risks redirecting attention and financial benefit away from the public school system that serves all children. At a time when our schools are working to address learning recovery, student mental health needs, educator shortages, and rising operational costs, Maryland must remain focused on strengthening, not fragmenting, its public education system.

The bill also clarifies Maryland's treatment of 529 college savings plans. Maryland's college savings incentives were designed to promote postsecondary attainment and long-term opportunity for students. Preserving that purpose protects both fiscal responsibility and fairness. Expanding these tax benefits to cover private elementary and secondary tuition would reduce state revenues while disproportionately benefiting families already able to afford private education.

Finally, House Bill 930 maintains the General Assembly's authority over major tax policy decisions that affect education funding.

Free State PTA is committed to advocating for policies that ensure every child has access to a high-quality public education. House Bill 930 aligns with that mission by safeguarding public resources, maintaining accountability, and reinforcing the state's investment in the schools that serve all Maryland students. Free State PTA urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB930.

Thank you,
Free State PTA, Advocacy Committee