

## Testimony on HB0930 – FAVORABLE

### Income Tax – Decoupling From Federal Changes – Education Expenses

#### House Ways and Means Committee – February 26, 2026

Ways and Means Committee and Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **FAVORABLE testimony in support of HB0930.**

HB0930 is an important protection against any federal instability in education policy, while allowing state leaders to continue our commitment to making Maryland an education destination and the Blueprint's goal of providing a world-class *public* education for Maryland students. On the surface, HB0930 appears to be legislation about whether or not Maryland will choose to adopt or decouple ourselves from a certain federal tax policy. In reality, HB0930 is a critical affirmation of Maryland's values and could have a significant impact on the fiscal outlook for public schools over the next several years.

We must call these federal tax credit programs that HB0930 is responding to what they are: a clear attempt to gut public education by taking already thin-stretched resources away from students who need them most and divert them towards *private* education. It is any parent's right to send their child to a school of their choice. It is not their right to raid already underfunded public schools and expect others – especially public school *students* – to pay for their choice. Public dollars are for the public good, which in education means public schools that are open and accessible to all.

I served for 5 years as the PTO president at an underfunded neighborhood boundary school. Year after year, I sat across from our longtime principal reviewing the budget and trying to figure out how to manage cuts. Most years we were forced to choose between an extra classroom teacher or much-needed paraprofessionals. One year our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade had only one classroom teacher – and a class of 36 students – because that was the only way to make the budget math work that year. In eight years as a parent, we've never had a Math Instructional Leader Teacher. This year, we lost 4.5 staff positions including our *Reading* Instructional Lead Teacher. All while being expected to show progress on math and reading, even as we are annually left without the resources to do so. As I testified during state budget hearings last session, at so many chronically underfunded schools like mine, there is simply no where left to cut.

That is the on-the-ground annual budget struggle our public schools face that legislators should remember. Maryland already faces a significant revenue shortfall for public education in the years ahead. Every single dollar diverted to subsidize private education *choices* is one less dollar for hundreds of public schools who need each penny. Call them vouchers, or scholarships, or grants, or tax credits. The bottom line is that Maryland public school students lose.

HB0930 will protect public school funding, and I thank Delegate Forbes and her co-sponsors for their leadership on this issue. I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB0930.

Timothy Meyer

*Former 5-term PTO president at Mount Rainier Elementary, Prince George's County*

*Individual Advocate with the Blueprint Coalition*