



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 930: Income Tax – Decoupling From Federal Changes – Education Expenses**

Ways and Means Committee

Position: Favorable

February 26, 2026

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. We advocate, build power, and share resources with invested Maryland residents to co-create strong and fully funded public schools. **Strong Schools Maryland stands in support of House Bill 930 – Income Tax – Decoupling from Federal Changes – Education Expenses, which preserves public dollars for public schools by ensuring that Maryland does not participate in a new federal tax credit program that subsidizes private school tuition.**

Maryland has made a historic commitment to strengthening public education through the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, a long-term strategy to close opportunity gaps, increase investments in educator quality, expand access to early childhood education, and provide additional resources for students with disabilities, multilingual learners, and students living in poverty. Fully delivering on that promise requires sustained and full investment in the public school system. This can not happen when resources and fiscal support is diverted to private systems. House Bill 930 aligns with that commitment by ensuring the State does not undermine its own public education system through participation in a federal privatization initiative.

House Bill 930 ensures that Maryland public school students remain the focus of public investment by declining participation in the federal voucher tax credit program created under recent federal law. This tax credit program provides a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit for contributions to scholarship granting organizations that *fund private school tuition*. **While structured as a tax mechanism, the effect is the same: it redirects public resources toward private education without requiring the same standards of accountability, transparency, or access that apply to public schools** as Maryland is constitutionally required to provide a thorough and efficient system of *free public schools*. Private schools that would benefit from the federal tax credit program are not bound by the same obligations that our public schools are to serve all students.

The federal voucher tax credit also poses broader fiscal risks. Federal funds support essential services in Maryland schools, including IDEA, Title I, and nutrition programs. Any federal revenue

losses tied to large-scale tax credits increase pressure on these funding streams. Maryland has a commitment to fully fund the Blueprint. Therefore, it is fiscally responsible to avoid policies that could jeopardize federal education investments. House Bill 930 also maintains Maryland's longstanding approach to 529 college savings accounts by decoupling from federal changes that would expand tax advantages for K-12 private school expenses. As a result, families can continue to benefit from college savings incentives without creating new subsidies for private K-12 tuition.

The Blueprint is built on the principle that every child, regardless of race, income, disability status, language background, or zip code, deserves access to a high-quality public education. Students deserve stability and accountability in our public school system. House Bill 930 reinforces that commitment and ensures Maryland does not divert essential funding and resources from public schools to private institutions.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 930.

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