

**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 849
Economic Development – Eligibility for State Job Creation Incentive**

**House Ways & Means Committee
February 23, 2022**

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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 849, which creates real job standards for businesses to access corporate tax credits.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports adequate, sustainable, predictable revenue stream that will adequately fund both the operating and construction costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future requires that the state and county governments invest substantially more resources into education for our citizens become truly successful in the very competitive national and global economies. Student have even more needs now to make up for the academic and social-emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill helps create criteria to better determine if these corporate tax credits are used effectively. Getting a more accurate picture of expenditures like these tax credits will help the legislature better determine what funds are available to invest on our students and communities.

Finally, this bill helps ensure that companies taking advantage of these tax credits are living up to Maryland values. We must be working to ensure that all workers in the state have a living wage, have the right to organize, and have benefits that enable them to live healthy lives.

For those reasons, MSEA urges a favorable report on House Bill 849.