



# Maryland Education Coalition

*The Maryland Education Coalition is dedicated to raising the academic achievement of students in Maryland public schools by promoting adequate funding and systemic accountability for improving results.*

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## **Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee In Opposition to House Bill 884 Income Tax Credit - Nonpublic Education Expenses February 25, 2014**

Given the state's obligation to public schools, it is not in the state's interest to provide public funding or tax expenditures to private educational programs, particularly given the need of public schools.

Public school funds are utilized to serve all children, and each child who walks through the door must be accommodated. However, non-public schools do not have to publicly report how funding is spent nor do they have to follow any accountability or achievement measures. Non-public schools are also not required to follow any of the state's non-discrimination protections.

We realize that families that choose non-public school for their children may be encountering financial difficulties as result of the current economic times, but so too are public schools. At the present time, federal dollars are declining. Additionally, tax credits are expenditures and take money out of the state revenue system and the proposal in this bill is no exception. The state and counties are already struggling to provide public schools with the resources necessary for students to thrive. If home instruction is thrown into the mix, funding will be further diluted.

The Maryland Education Coalition respectfully opposes House Bill 884 and asks for your unfavorable report.