



Education Advocate

In this issue...

- 1) Dec. 12th Community Conversation: RSVP NOW!
- 2) Call on your U.S. Senators to "Fix America's Schools Today!"

"Save Our State" Community Conversation

Monday, December 12th
Baltimore City Community College Auditorium, 6pm - 8pm

Maryland is facing yet another major deficit, and there will be pressure during the upcoming General Assembly session to cut the education budget. Our students have made strong academic gains over the last decade, but we jeopardize their success when we fail to maintain adequate levels of funding. Education has not been held harmless in previous years, and the effects are being felt in the classroom. We've seen teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and scaling back of programs such as art and music.

Community, education, and labor organizations, including the Education Reform Project, are sponsoring a series of "Community Conversations" to discuss the state budget crisis and how we can work toward possible solutions that ensure long-term growth in Maryland through a balanced fiscal approach. In order to protect investments such as public education, healthcare, and transportation, we need to discuss new sources of revenue. The conversation will be moderated by radio talk show host Marc Steiner from WEAA 88.9 and have a panel of speakers that includes Neil Bergsman of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute.

Monday, December 12 at 6:00pm
Baltimore City Community College Auditorium
2901 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

[Click here](#) to RSVP and join the conversation!

Action Alert: Call your U.S. Senators today!

New federal bill could mean \$315 million for Maryland, \$114 million for Baltimore City

The campaign to [Transform Baltimore: Build Schools, Build Neighborhoods](#) asked our two Senators from Maryland to co-sponsor the federal bill "Fix America's Schools Today," or "FAST," which is being spearheaded by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D - Ohio). The bill would devote \$30 billion into addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance and repair needs in our nation's K-12 schools and community colleges. It would also help create thousands of jobs in construction and related industries in every state.

Senators Mikulski and Cardin have agreed to sign on as co-sponsors, but that's not enough. The bill was supposed to get a vote *this month* but is currently stuck in committee. Will you ask them to take a leadership role in getting it to the Senate floor and lobbying their colleagues to get it passed? State and cities throughout the nation have a desperate need for school renovation funding. To date, the federal government has played a minimal role in helping districts ensure that their public schools are healthy, fully-equipped, and supporting high quality learning. Now, we have an opportunity to change that. To learn more about the "FAST" bill, [click here](#). **Call your Senators today!**

Senator Cardin: (202) 224-4524
Senator Mikulski: (202) 224-4654

Leave a message or ask to speak with legislative staff working on the "FAST" bill (SB 1597). Here is some suggested language:

"I want to thank the Senator for co-sponsoring the "FAST" bill; it is desperately needed for students and teachers in Maryland and Baltimore City. Maryland has several billion dollars in school maintenance, repair, and renovation needs. Baltimore alone needs over \$2 billion to fully modernize every school building in the city."

Give examples of school facility deficiencies: Faulty heating systems, lack of air conditioning, poor ventilation, leaky roofs, inadequate science and computer labs, etc.

"The FAST bill will bring \$314 million to Maryland, including \$114 million to Baltimore to repair its crumbling school buildings, and it is projected to create thousands of jobs. Can I give you my name and address so you can contact me and let me know what the Senator is doing to get this important bill passed?"

E-mail transform.bmore@gmail.com and let us know if you called, or tell us what happened on Facebook!

Follow the Education Reform Project!

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Education Reform Project

Bebe Verdery, Director
Frank Patinella, Education Advocate
Ben Kaufman, Education Associate

410.889.8555 | education@aclu-md.org | www.aclu-md.org

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

Trusted Email from
Constant Contact

Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to kaufman@aclu-md.org by patinella@aclu-md.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland | 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 | Baltimore | MD | 21217