Talking Points: Support PG 508-27

View the proposed bill ***PG-508-27 Prince George's County – Sales and Use Tax – Special Education and Student Wellness Surcharge and Fund***

- PGCPS is facing a projected $75 million to $100 million budget shortfall. We need sustainable solutions to protect the programs and services our students depend on.
- PG-508-27 would create a dedicated, ongoing funding source for special education, helping relieve pressure on the district's overall operating budget.
- PG-508-27 could help address the district's long-term budget challenges. By creating a dedicated, recurring source of funding for special education, the bill would help cover costs that PGCPS currently pays for through its general operating budget.
- When special education costs are supported by a separate funding source, more money can remain available for teachers, transportation, school programs and other student services.
- This funding could help address special education staffing shortages and improve access to the services students need to succeed.
- This is about investing in the long-term stability of PGCPS so we can better support all students and families.
- This is a small surcharge with significant potential. The proposed 1% surcharge amounts to about 10 cents on a $10 purchase. It would apply to alcohol, cannabis, cigarettes, tobacco and vaping products sold in the County, not groceries or everyday essentials.
- The proposed surcharge could generate $50 million to $100 million annually to help address the growing gap between special education costs and available state and federal funding.

On Monday, November 30, the Prince George's County House Delegation will host a public hearing, at 6 p.m. at Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts to hear public testimony on proposed local legislation, including ***PG-508-27 Prince George's County – Sales and Use Tax – Special Education and Student Wellness Surcharge and Fund***, which could establish a dedicated funding source for special education in PGCPS.

Make Your Voice Heard

Here's how you can participate:

- **Testify in person:** Register here by **11:59 p.m. Monday, November 23**. Speakers will have up to two minutes to share their perspectives.
- **Submit written testimony sharing** why sustainable school funding matters to PGCPS and your family.
- Learn more about PG-508-27 and get talking points.
- **Learn more about the FY28 budget**

The hearing will also be livestreamed on the Delegation's YouTube channel.