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The BOAST Maryland Tax Credit: Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers in Maryland

A Little Extra *Credit* Can Do a Lot of Good for Maryland's Catholic Schools

The BOAST Maryland Tax Credit is designed to provide Maryland's elementary and secondary schools with a means of leveraging significantly increased investment from their local business communities. It is a bipartisan legislative proposal that benefits *all* students and teachers, including those at Catholic and other nonpublic schools.

The BOAST Maryland Tax Credit grants a 75 percent state income tax credit (rather than a charitable deduction) to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations for nonpublic school students or innovative educational programs for public school students. The tax credit encourages businesses to give more, so students and teachers are able to receive more.

How Will Catholic Schools Benefit from BOAST?

- *Your students* may receive scholarships from scholarship organizations. With more scholarships available, more lower- and middle-income families will have the opportunity to send their children to your school.
- *Your teachers* may receive grants to cover the cost of graduate-level coursework or professional development programs. This will allow them to meet "highly qualified" standards. By making more scholarships available to Catholic and other nonpublic school teachers, BOAST will make it easier for your school to recruit and retain talented teachers.
- *Your school* will have a means of leveraging increased investment from local businesses. By working closely with scholarship organizations, your school can secure the resources needed to increase enrollments, stabilize tuition costs, improve educational quality, and achieve other strategic goals.

BOAST's promises have already been fulfilled in Pennsylvania, where the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) has led more than 2,300 businesses to donate more than \$260 million to education programs since 2001.

How Your School Can Support BOAST in the Maryland General Assembly:

- Sign up for our Online Legislative Action Center at www.mdccathcon.org. The Action Center will send e-mail alerts regarding the status of the BOAST bill and put you in easy contact with your lawmakers. At www.mdccathcon.org, select the "Legislative Action Center" button on the right side of the page and then hit the "Sign Up Here" link.
- Share information about BOAST with your school's teachers, staff members, donors, and parents through your school newsletter, Web site, or other communications.
- Include a discussion about BOAST on the agenda of upcoming school events such as school board meetings, parent-teacher organization meetings, and teacher in-service days.

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