

Testimony from BCPSS Teacher & Baltimore City Resident Franca Muller Paz

SB0031 - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Student Members and Task Force to Study Compensation and Student Members

Before the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

1/24/2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Good morning/afternoon members of the **Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,**

My name is Franca Muller Paz and I'm a Baltimore City resident. I'm writing to give my full support of SB0031 to give student members of the board expanded voting rights, the ability to participate in closed/executive sessions, to alter the process by which those students are chosen to be more democratic, and to establish a commission to research and make recommendations on board member compensation and adding a second student member of the board.

As an advisor for the student organization SOMOS - Students Organizing a Multicultural & Open Society, I see how powerful and capable our student leaders are every day. They are experts of the experience of living through our school system. Because they see how policies are executed on the ground, they are a tremendous asset to the board and deserve to have a voice in the decisions that directly impact them.

It is the students that see the conditions of their cafeterias, the classrooms. They are the ones who must learn in extreme heat or cold. They see how decisions to execute system wide programs excel or fall short. They are the ones who have to play on the district's fields, or be denied because of their conditions. Students understand what is urgent, because they live that reality every day.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0031. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Franca Muller Paz
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