

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Student Members and Task Force to  
Study Compensation and Student Members / BILL #SB00031/HB0153  
Official Testimony  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Senate EEE Committee & House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Michael Kranick, and I'm a Fell's Point resident and a member of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I support the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Student Members and Task Force to Study Compensation and Student Members (#SB00031/HB0153).

This bill will protect and advance the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners by providing two key elements: 1.) democratizing the School Board through student advocacy, voice, and voting powers, and 2.) providing compensation for all School Board members to a.) ensure each member's invaluable efforts to advance City Schools and its students are recognized and rewarded monetarily, and b.) creating a market for future board membership.

I believe that passing of this bill is essential because as the son of a School Board President of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, I recognize the importance of a school board's efforts and the incredible amount of work that goes into ensuring the decisions made by the board are evidence-based, feasible, and equitable to all involved and affected by said decisions. As with any leadership position, being a school board member can be difficult, time consuming, and thankless. Studying the potential of providing compensation to our School Board will provide an incentive toward retaining those holding the position currently, and market future board seats to those who have the skill sets and desires to serve but cannot do so on a voluntary and unpaid basis. Additionally, the study of Student Members upon the board will provide more clear and explicit expectations, roles, and responsibilities of the student membership. The study will also yield evidence of the value and treatment of student board members as full-fledged members of the school board and highlight any ageist or biased discriminatory practices they may encounter as a result of their age and school status.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on #SB00031/HB0153, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Student Members and Task Force to Study Compensation and Student Members.

Sincerely,

Michael Kranick  
Special Educator - Secondary ELA, Baltimore City Public Schools System  
Member of the Baltimore Teachers Union  
Chair of the BTU Special Education Committee  
570-903-9907  
mrkranick@bcps.k12.md.us  
michael.kranick.17@tfacorps.org