

Testimony from **Camila**, Baltimore City Public Schools **STUDENT**, District **45** Resident

HB0085: Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the **Senate Finance Committee**,

My name is **Camila Calero**, and I'm a **Baltimore public high school** student and resident. I support **SB0206**.

This bill will repeal the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class.

Passing this bill is essential because... as a student in Maryland public schools I have always struggled with finding my voice and getting the courage to speak to my teachers, it is not that they are mean or scary.

It is because I am a first generation student. My parents never got a formal education. They never had the opportunity to even go to school. My sister and I are the first to go to public school and have a formal education. And we will be first generation college graduates as well.

As of recently I joined a program called Adelante Latina, it made me realize how effective having smaller size classes is. I have made the most friends there than I have made in all my years of being in Maryland's school system. I am able to ask my teachers questions without fearing that I am taking up too much time or that my classmates will judge me. Not being able to speak up makes me afraid for my future since it makes me think about how other schools, like private ones, have 12:1 class ratios. It scares me that I will have to eventually compete with these students during college applications. I often go home wishing my school class sizes were as small and intimate. We are not asking to reduce class sizes, we are just asking for the opportunity to speak about the issue.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **[SB0206]** Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size.

Sincerely,

Camila Calero
Student Organizer SOMOS,
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Camila Calero
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