

Testimony from Maria Monterrosa, Baltimore City Public Schools Student, District [#]
Resident

SB206: Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size

Official Testimony
Position: FAVORABLE

To the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Maria Monterrosa, and I'm a Baltimore city resident. I'm a student from Baltimore City College and a member of SOMOS. I support SB0206.

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

I stand by the reduction of class sizes because I've had too many instances in which my doubts in class were never adressed due to the 6 other people that had raised their hand before me. In the U.S the average number of students in a classroom is around 24 which can be problematic for both teachers and students. But my classes all have over 30 students.

Many students are at a disadvantage in terms of the quality of their classes since teacher feedback and student to teacher relationships play a large role in student education, but are cut short due to the mass of students that the teacher has to assist.

It's very easy to disguise depression or domestic violence when being overshadowed by over 30 other people in a class. There are also many instances in which students are too afraid to be wrong when participating in class which limits their abilities of learning as we all know that we learn from our mistakes. This behavior is a product of social anxiety and lack of relationship with the teacher and peers.

Smaller class sizes will increase the chance of students to involve themselves more often in class which will make their opinions, feelings and questions be heard ,or even noticed. Smaller class sizes will create the oppportunity to build bonds which ultimately benefit the student's ability to learn in a class. Thank you.

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

Sincerely,

Maria Monterrosa

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