

Testimony from **Blanca Rosalez**, Baltimore City College Student, SOMOS Student Organizer, Writer Center tutor And a Baltimore resident Resident

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

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the **House Ways & Means Committee**,

My name is **Blanca Rosalez**, and I'm a **Baltimore** resident and a member of SOMOS - Students Organizing a Multicultural and Open Society. I support **HB0085**.

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 extremely important to build a stronger community within our schools and improve students safety, I believe that one of the lack of student safety is the amount of people in not classroom, it it's incredibly hard to be sitting in a room full of students **who are strangers because we are not willing to know eeach othe**.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **HB0085** Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size.

Sincerely,

Blanca Rosalez

SOMOS

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Research:

- Brookings Institute 2011: "[Class Size: What Research Says and What it Means for State Policy](#)"
 - Average class size is 15.3 (based on data compiled [here](#) from National Center for Education Statistics)
 - Largest impact for class size reduction from STAR was "the positive effects of class size were largest for black students, economically disadvantaged students, and boys."
 - "It appears that very large class-size reductions, on the order of magnitude of 7-10 fewer students per class, can have meaningful long-term effects on student achievement and perhaps on non-cognitive outcomes."
- NCTQ 2019: "<https://www.nctq.org/blog/A-sizable-opportunity:-thinking-strategically-about-class-size>"
 - "Of our sample of 124 large districts (which includes the 100 largest districts in the country and the largest district in each state), we find that almost all (82 percent) put strict limits on class sizes in at least some grades."
 - See table below for top nine districts from 2019 for average sizes by grade
 - Anne Arundel County Schools: goal for lower class size limits or goals for schools with more vulnerable student populations
- STAR, Tennessee 1980s
 - Compared classes of 15 to classes of 22, randomized groups (32% reduction)
 - Elementary students outperformed by .22 over four years, or equivalent of 3 months instruction
- SSRN, NY State: [Effect of class size on teacher attrition](#)
 - A decrease in class size from 23 to 20 students, under a district-wide policy, decreases the probability that a teacher leaves a school by 4.2 percentage points.
- 2009: NY Times: Class Size Around the World:
<https://archive.nytimes.com/economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/11/class-size-around-the-world/>

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUBMITTING YOUR TESTIMONY:

Step 1: Finish Writing Your Testimony

SB00031/HB0153 - School Board Bill Toolkit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W4KGFcigPgVYZwtdqLY_RAGCa7hEKL9MeJriGzqdY/edit?usp=sharing

HB0085/SB0206 - Class Size Bill Toolkit:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aR9-ottSDoL18oEpObC4BhAvizrroiQLRLRqbEpLtCc/edit>

Step 2: Sign-In or Make MyMGA Account

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignup>

Step 3: Go to "Witness Sign Up" & look for your bill

Decide if you want to submit written, virtual oral, live oral, or "both" which is written and virtual or live oral. Select that option and then hit SAVE.

Step 4: Wait for your testimony ZOOM link the morning of the hearing (if giving spoken testimony)
It will come from this email: no-reply@mlis.state.md.us

Step 5: Watch MGA youtube channel

Watch your hearing & jump on when your bill is called

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Information/YouTubeChannelInfo>

