

TESTIMONY ON HB 789
Primary and Secondary Education - Public School Employees - Salaries
House Ways and Means Committee

February 14, 2024

Submitted by Christopher Cano, Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
On behalf of SEIU Local 500

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 supports HB 789, which modifies the minimum salary for public school employees to \$60,000 per year. For far too long the educator brain drain that has affected our state has resulted in a talent gap. This bill will go a long way to attracting the qualified and talented workers needed to serve Maryland's students.

Too often, hard-working public school employees cannot afford to live in the same counties in which they work. Creating a floor that will make wages livable for public school employees can ensure that the people who spend the most time with our children can focus on their job rather than combatting the challenges of poverty.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future endeavors to make Maryland a global powerhouse when it comes to educating a 21st century workforce. This legislation supports that goal by uplifting the workforce tasked with accomplishing such monumental work.

We appreciate your consideration and support for HB 789.