

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Ways and Means Committee
By Amyah Davis, Undergraduate Studies Representative
HB1207
March 28, 2025
UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Mark S. Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Amyah Davis, and I am an Undergraduate Studies Representative at the University of Maryland. I am writing today to urge this committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 1207.

This bill proposes significant salary increases for members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, which raises several concerns. While fair compensation is important, these drastic increases present financial and ethical challenges that outweigh the potential benefits.

First, the proposed salary adjustments create an unnecessary financial burden on taxpayers and the county budget. With compensation increases of \$62,000 for elected board members and \$124,000 for the board president, the allocation of funds toward board salaries could divert resources away from essential educational priorities, such as school programs, teacher salaries, and student services.

Second, the bill lacks justification for such steep salary increases. Board members serve in governance roles, and their responsibilities have not significantly changed to warrant such dramatic pay raises. Without clear accountability measures or performance metrics, this increase appears excessive.

Additionally, this proposal raises concerns about equity. Many educators and school staff members continue to face stagnant wages, and prioritizing board salaries over direct educational investments undermines efforts to address pressing issues in public education.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill. Our focus should remain on improving educational outcomes and ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed toward students, teachers, and schools.

Sincerely, Amyah Davis
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