



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 27th, 2026

**SB339 -Maryland School for the Deaf - Membership of Board of Trustees - Alterations**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed colleagues:

Senate Bill 339 will alter the maximum size of the Board of Trustees for the Maryland School for the Deaf from nineteen to thirteen members. The bill further establishes that, within the restructured board, at least seven members must be deaf, increasing the current minimum of six and enshrining deaf-majority membership. To be clear, no current members will be removed. Reduction will be achieved entirely through voluntary attrition.

Sentiments shared from the board reflect a well-considered determination that a smaller governing body is necessary to strengthen effectiveness and accountability. A more appropriately sized board will facilitate finding and appointing highly qualified individuals while making it easier to reach quorum, thereby enhancing deliberative efficiency and strategic focus. Maintaining a deaf majority is essential to the board's mission and institutional integrity. By ensuring that governance decisions are guided by deaf leadership grounded in lived experience, linguistic fluency, and cultural competence, this bill reinforces the core values of the Maryland School for the Deaf and strengthens its capacity to serve students effectively.

Senate Bill 339 positions the Board of Trustees to operate with greater clarity of purpose, disciplined oversight, and concentrated accountability. The benefits of this restructuring will extend beyond governance to the students, families, to the broader community who rely on the school's leadership and institutional excellence. I respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young".

Senator Karen Lewis Young