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February 3, 2026

RE: SB 099/HB 0154 Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)
Position: Favorable with Amendment

Dear Chairman Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, Delegate Korman, and Honorable Members of Ways and Means Committee

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, a former practicing nursing practitioner, special education parent advocate, and public health servant.

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 99 (Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)**. This legislation represents a critical step forward in ensuring that local boards of education remain accountable to the families and students they serve. The requirement for live video streaming and the digital publication of agendas and minutes is a necessary modernization of the Open Meetings Act. By removing physical barriers to attendance, this bill allows a broader range of stakeholders, including working parents and individuals with disabilities to participate in the democratic process of educational governance.

However, to ensure the bill achieves its maximum potential for transparency, I respectfully suggest the following amendments:

- **Timely Disclosure:** Require agendas to be posted no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- **Accessibility Standards:** Explicitly mandate closed captioning for all live and archived video content to ensure ADA compliance or a requirement for transcripts to be provided within 60 days upon request to the entity's custodian.
- **Digital Preservation:** Specify that archived recordings must be stored in a searchable, user-friendly format on the board's website for the duration of the 5-year requirement.

With these enhancements, SB 99/HB0154 will provide Marylanders with the level of transparency and engagement they deserve from their local school systems. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 99 with these minor amendments.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, CPNP-PC, BCPA
Resident, Howard County, MD