



Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County

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Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 196 Anne Arundel County—Board of Education—Voting

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 4, 2020

1:00 p.m.

**Russell C. Leone
TAAAC President**

The Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County (TAAAC) opposes Senate Bill 196, legislation that would require an affirmative vote of six of the seven members of the Anne Arundel County Boards of Education in order to approve any Board action.

TAAAC represents 6,281 Anne Arundel County educators and is part of the 75,000 educators and school employees, represented by the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA), who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, along with the National Education Association (NEA), our parent affiliate representing 3 million-members across the country.

We oppose this legislation simply because it would render our county school board powerless to enact any changes without having near unanimous consent by all of the members of the Board. This threshold goes above and beyond even a super majority vote, which is largely used in cases where the matter at hand is extremely consequential and where compromise and deliberation are absolutely necessary.

To be clear, we believe whole heartedly that the duties of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education have significant impacts on every resident of our county and, in many respects, our entire state. However, the vote threshold required in this legislation (6/7 or 86%) would exceed even that which is required by the Maryland General Assembly to approve the State's annual budget (a simple majority or 50% plus 1), to override a gubernatorial veto (3/5 or 60%), or to amend the state constitution (3/5 or 60%).

Clearly this bill, if passed, would prove extremely detrimental to the consequential work the Board of Education is required to perform. It is both unwarranted and unnecessary. **As such, on behalf of the members of TAAAC, I ask that you vote unfavorably on SB 196.**