

Testimony on HB 1422 – Public Schools - Redistricting - Community Advisory Committees For Student Assignment

Ting Mei Chau

Montgomery County

Good afternoon all delegates,

My name is Ting Mei Chau and I am a Montgomery county resident and parent of MCPS student. As an adult immigrant to this country 21 years ago, I am grateful for all the opportunities this country offered to me. I moved to Montgomery county from New York City in 2006 and truly settled down here and call it home.

Montgomery county's embrace for diversity and inclusion is something I never experienced compared to Tennessee, Georgia, New York while I lived there. And the school system's very diverse student body also give my child the experience he needs. In a nut shell, we do feel Montgomery a home, a community, and a place proud to be.

It is purely for this purpose I urge you to support HB 1422 – Public Schools – Redistricting – Community Advisory Committees for Student Assignment. This bill requires local government to establish a certain community advisory committee for student assignment within 30 days after a county board of education votes to begin a school redistricting process, to review and provide input on certain redistricting proposals.

Because it is very simple – the sense of home and community, school stability is lost. Redistricting is very disruptive to every student, teacher, family, and community that has any, ANY, chance of being impacted. We understand that there are always needs to review school capacity and facility to meet ever changing student body and needs. But in the past each impacted community would be informed, involved and had good discussion and buy in for the solution to the problem. In a county wide, district wide scenario, that's every of Montgomery County's 163,000 might be impacted. It is true probably not everyone will, but the possibility of it still drives families anxious and face uncertainty. How do arrange afterschool activities, how to rebuild kids social cycle with uncertainty, how to manage the commute, and how to keep the PTA and parent support groups manageable and functional?

Thank you, Lily, for trying to address those wide concerns. I believe what this bill will do, is to make sure there are sufficient community engagement, but in a bigger scale, and in a formal structure, and have a solid, transparent timeline and mechanism, to ensure all impacted communities, geographically, linguistically, religiously, could participate in the decision-making process.

Montgomery County is geographically big, with complicated transportation patterns and needs, and demographically diverse, with people coming from 158 countries. And public school system is the biggest public system that impacts the most people, families, and communities. Having any idea for changing the system would need a lot of preparation and deliberation. If we can have more than 80 commissions on various public works, from how can we not having one for such big impacted issue? So this bill will add that critical layer to it.

Thank you!

Meeting Calendar
Vacancy Announcements and New Online Application Procedure
Council Policy Regarding Appointments
County Executive
Advocacy Request Form
Parliamentary Procedure Training
Training Certification
Contact Us

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board
Aging, Commission on
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board
Airpark Liaison Committee
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council
Alcoholic Beverages Advisory Board
Animal Matters Hearing Board
Appeals, Board of
Board of Education Compensation Commission
Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors
Cable and Communications Advisory Committee
Cable Compliance Commission
Charter Review Commission
Child Care, Commission on
Children and Youth, Commission on
Citizen's Review Panel for Children
Committee Evaluation and Review Board
Committee to Recommend Funding for the Public Election Fund
Common Ownership Communities, Commission on
Community Action Board
Consumer Protection, Advisory Committee on
Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission
Crossroads Development, Commission - Inactive
Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC)
East County Citizens Advisory Board
Electrical Examiners, Board of
Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee
Ethics Commission
Ethnic Affairs, Committee for
Fire and Emergency Services Commission
Firearm Safety Committee
Forest Conservation Advisory Committee
Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
Glen Echo Part Partnership Board of Directors
Hate/Violence Committee
Health, Commission on
Historic Preservation Commission
Homelessness, Interagency Commission on
Human Rights Commission
Interagency Coordinating Board for Community Use of Public Facilities

Investment Trustee, Board of
Juvenile Justice, Commission on
Landlord-Tenant Affairs, Commission on
Library Board
License Commissioners, Board of
Local Management Board for Children, Youth and Families
Mental Health Advisory Committee
Merit System Protection Board
Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board
Montgomery Cares Program, Advisory Board for
Noise Control Advisory Board
Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
People with Disabilities, Commission on
Permitting (Department of) Services Advisory Committee
Planning Board
Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board
Recreation Advisory Boards
Registration for Building Contractors, Board of
Revenue Authority
Rustic Roads Advisory Committee
Sign Review Board
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee
Social Services, Board of
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Strathmore Hall Foundation Board of Directors
Sustainability Working Group - Inactive
Taxicab Service Advisory Committee
Technology Investment Fund Loan/Grant Committee - Inactive
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board
Veterans Affairs, Commission on
Victim Services Advisory Board
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)
Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)
Water Quality Advisory Group
Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board
Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee
Women, Commission for
Workforce Development Board