



Serving Learners, Families, and the Community

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CECIL COUNTY
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William H. Malesh
President, Board of Education

Diana B. Hawley
Vice President, Board of Education

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear State Senator Pinsky:

Re: Opposition of *House Bill 655, Local Elections – County Commissioner and County Boards of Education – District Voting*

As President and Vice President of the Board of Education of Cecil County (BOE), we are submitting this letter with the full support of all five Board members. We strongly oppose *House Bill 655, Local Elections – County Commissioner and County Boards of Education – District Voting*, which is scheduled for a Senate Hearing on March 18, 2021.

The premise of this legislation is to change Cecil County's election process of allowing all county citizens the opportunity to vote for each and every candidate seeking a seat on the Board of Education of Cecil County. Although our Board members are aligned on the election ballot to the district in which they live, the position serves all 29 public schools in Cecil County.

The population of the various towns in Cecil County is grossly uneven. Elkton, the county seat, has a population of 15,442, while our three smallest towns (Cecilton, Chesapeake City, and Port Deposit) have populations of 663, 673, and 653, respectively. This being said, voter turnout is not equitable per voting district in Cecil County. It is clear that votes from the entire county are critical to support the successful effort of a candidate to run for the position of Board of Education member.

The Board of Education of Cecil County strongly opposes HB 655 and request your support and assistance in rejecting this bill.

Sincerely,

William H. Malesh
Board President

Sincerely,

Diana B. Hawley
Board Vice President

cc: Cecil County Delegation