

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman  
And Members of the Education, Health and  
Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senate of Maryland  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 945 – Public Comment at Calvert County Board of Education Meetings – FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 945 to provide for a 3-minute public comment period on educational policies and issues involving the Calvert County Board of Education. Citizens have only been able to watch virtual meetings of the Board of Education. Whether public meetings of the Board are virtual or in-person there is a need for citizens to have an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on policies and issues of importance to the education of our children and grandchildren and the functioning of the public schools.

Approximately 50% of our County tax dollars go to fund the public schools and Board of Education. We need public awareness and input on the effectiveness of implementation of that budget.

A recent report on the failure rate for students in Calvert County during the current school year was more than 3 times that of last school year with 16.8% of African-American students are failing in this all virtual school year. The Board of Education has repeatedly delayed any in-person classes until this month.

Parents and citizens need the opportunity to provide input and comments on a regular basis on important issues facing students in our County school system.

Please give a Favorable Report to SB 945.

Sincerely,  
Ella Ennis  
P.O. Box 437  
Port Republic, MD 20676  
E-mail: [eee437@comcast.net](mailto:eee437@comcast.net)