



March 1, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Harford County Democratic Central Committee is opposed to SB 382. This bill was introduced by Harford County's Republican Senators to consolidate partisan power on the nonpartisan Board of Education.

The proposed amendment for SB 382 is a major conflict of interest because the County Executive decides on approving operating budgets created by the Board of Education, but one-third of board members could be beholden to the County Executive.

Harford County Republicans know they won't always control the governor's office, but they feel a lot better about holding on to the County Executive's office. They support the bill because it sets them up to appoint Board of Education members in the future.

The HCDCC does not want to see any changes to the Harford County Board of Education. The public needs to provide more input on this legislation during the General Assembly's recess. Crafting legislation — like SB 382 and others in the future — needs to be a more collaborative process with all stakeholders involved.