

PG ChangeMakers
In Support of HB0624 with Amendments

PG ChangeMakers strongly supports H.B. 624 and urges the Ways and Means to pass this bill out of committee with a favorable report. This legislation would return control of the Prince George's County Public Schools to the voters of the county as it should be. The voters of Prince George's county have continually asked for this as that it leaves the elected board and voters without oversight to the CEO, unlike every other Maryland jurisdiction. This bill would also remove the appointed board members, maintain each of nine districts electing an accountable board member, and permit the elected school board to select and supervise the superintendent once again; vacancies would be filled by special election. Prior to 2002, the voters of Prince George's County elected our school board from nine single-member districts. To take the vote away from the voters of our county which is predominantly one of color, was a blatantly and inherently racist maneuver. The appointed board made no significant improvement in governance or student achievement over the former elected board and has in fact, caused more harm than good to the students and residents of Prince George's county in a variety of ways.

It is again urged by this organization that this bill be passed with the amendments discussed with the Author of the bill.