

**Testimony SUPPORT of Senate Bill 576  
Public Schools – Air Quality Testing – Posting Online**

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
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The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 576, which requires county boards of education to retain the services of an indoor air investigator, to make results of air quality tests available online, and submit the results to the Maryland State Department of Education.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA appreciates the sponsor's work with us and our local affiliates in Baltimore County, the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO) and the Education Support Professionals of Baltimore County (ESPBC), on this matter.

After almost ten years of struggle to address concerns about air quality, specifically at Parkville Middle School, TABCO was compelled to file a grievance in 2018 to get legitimate health and safety concerns addressed by the County Board of Education. That grievance progressed to an arbitration. The arbitrator concluded in February 2021, that the Board failed to maintain a safe and healthy environment in the school and the Board failed to undertake a timely inspection of the mold problem by qualified staff.

By requiring the local boards of education to have an air quality inspector on retainer, they will be able to respond to concerns at a quicker pace. Educators feel like their concerns aren't heard, and they are put into unsafe situations. This bill would great more trust in the process between educators and administrators.

This bill would also bring greater transparency to concerns from faculty, staff and students from around the state, about air quality in their schools. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a greater focus on air quality issues, and the community has a right to know the results of these tests so they are able to effectively advocate for solutions.

**MSEA urges a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 576.**