

February 14, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environment Committee (EHE)

RE: **SB 0414- Baltimore County - Board of Education - Membership and Election of Officers** – Voluntary Admission

POSITION: SUPPORT

Good morning, Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am here today to voice my support for Senate Bill 0414.

My name is Moalie Jose, and I currently serve as a member-at-large on the Baltimore County Board of Education. I speak as an individual and not on behalf of the Board. As you all know Baltimore County Public schools is majority-minority system, we have over 66% children of color and from disenfranchised communities. The School Board has 80% white adult members currently, not representative of the student body. Representation matters.

In 2018 the Baltimore County School Board went from a fully appointed to a hybrid Board. The Board currently has 7 elected members, 4 Gubernatorial appointees and 1 Student member of the Board for a total of 12 members.

In 2019, with the passing of the late Roger Hayden we lost one member. Subsequently in the Dec 2019 Board officer's election, the challengers received 6 votes and the incumbents 5 votes, however our quorum requirements were 7-member majority based on a membership of 12. Despite 6 being greater than 5, the incumbents remained as de-facto officers since neither pair could receive the required 7 votes. It was 5 months before another member was appointed. This past week, member Cheryl Pasteur resigned, leaving us with 11 members on the Board. Ms. Pasteur was also vice chair of the board which means per policy we must have an election for the vice chair position. Again, majority remains 7, difficult to get on a Board so politically and racially divided. If our quorum requirements were to be based on the current members on the Board it would make governing, passing policies, approving contracts much easier and less contentious.