

March 30th, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman

The Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chairman

Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

The Honorable Venessa Atterbeary

The Honorable Alonzo Washington

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

RE: Requesting UNFAVORABLE REPORT: SB 908 and HB 603 – Harford County Board of Education Membership

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Atterbeary; Vice-Chairman Kagan and Washington

Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Stephen Puopolo, a constituent of Harford County, and I am urging you to reject both bills that are currently being discussed and submitted by the Harford County Delegation. As a husband and friend to teachers in Harford County, I have witnessed the actions on behalf of the Office of the County Executive in past and current administrations that have been nothing short of unsupportive of Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). In the past, the Office of the County Executive has made attempts to not honor agreements made with HCPS and as a result, teachers and support staff were forced to do without promises that were made for their contributions to the education system.

Currently, the Office of the County Executive has the power to create a budget for HCPS, which has been declared by many, including myself, to be underfunded. This has put the Harford County Board of Education in a position of finding ways to implement the budget as well as possible. By having governor appointed members, the members have provided objectivity when dealing with not only the budget but also policy. To give the Harford County Executive unilateral power to appoint school board members that may not share that same objectivity as Maryland Governor appointees will negatively impact an already delicate stability that could be prove catastrophic if there is not a proper check and balance in place.

Thank you for your time,

Stephen Puopolo

Harford County