

**Testimony from Matthew Schofield, Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher  
SB157 - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Alterations**

**Before the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**1/19/2022**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Good morning/afternoon members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Matthew Schofield and I am a Baltimore City resident and educator. I support SB157 to increase the amount of student members of the Baltimore City Schools Board of Commissioners from one to two, to give those student members full voting rights and the ability to participate in closed/executive sessions, to alter the process by which those students are chosen to be more democratic, and to establish a commission to research and make recommendations of board member compensation. As an educator, I know that students are those most impacted by decisions of the Board, and it is critical that they have a voice in decisions that will so profoundly impact their educational experience and future.

I am supporting this bill because I believe that, as the largest stakeholders in Board decisions, students deserve to have a greater voice. Student's voting rights should be expanded and they should have the ability to participate in executive/closed sessions and special meetings of the board. Given that student members of boards in neighboring counties have full voting rights, this seems like a reasonable change to be made in Baltimore City.

In addition, I am supporting this bill because I believe that board members should be compensated for the significant amount of work they contribute in their position. Currently, serving on the school board is the equivalent of taking on an unpaid, part-time job. Board members deserve to be compensated for their efforts and contributions. Compensation will also enable individuals who otherwise do not have time for such a demanding unpaid position to serve on the Board.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB157. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schofield

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