



March 8, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman
Senate Education, health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Division of Strategic
Partnerships and
Applied Research

8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252

Senate Bill 756-University of Maryland-County School Technology Pilot
Program-Established
SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The school redistricting process in Howard County can be supported by SB 756 as amended by allowing HCPPSS to access the cutting-edge research in geospatial analysis, data visualization, and process optimization and improvement from USM faculty, staff, and institutes.

While there is no argument that the work undertaken by HCPSS staff to redistrict students is anything less than stellar, it is difficult for those working in the process to work on the process. This bill with amendments allows a third party to provide technical assistance to HCPSS for this redistricting process.

USM faculty, staff and institutes are actively researching in these key areas and can provide keen insights as well as recommendations for process improvement. In addition, a survey of other redistricting processes will be done to provide context for the recommendations. USM will support this by assigning a project manager for this endeavor who will be able to access and assign key USM resources to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daraius Irani', written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

Daraius Irani, Ph.D.
Vice President
Division of Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research

