

Testimony from Patrice Pilgrim, BTU

SB157 - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Alterations

Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

House Delegation/Baltimore City Senate Delegation

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 - 1:00 PM

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Good Afternoon members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Patrice Pilgrim and I'm a Baltimore City resident. 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.

I teach at the high school level, and I am always telling my students that their voices matter when it comes to speaking up for what they need as well as changes that they would like to see come to fruition. I see this bill - and what it would do, as a means of empowering current and future student voices - in terms of the issues that are relevant to their educational futures.

As a teacher, with City Schools, I often feel as if my voice is not heard. In much the same way, ideas that make 'sense' in the educational landscape - if they are coming from students, are often discounted. Supporting this bill means that students across this school district will have - not only the ability to help enact change that is meaningful to them, but also to have a voice when it comes to the development of policies that impact them and their educational futures.

Supporting this bill also means that students will have a 'hand' in holding the school board accountable to the jobs that they are supposed to be doing.

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

Thank You.

Sincerely,  
Patrice Pilgrim  
Educator - Secondary ELA  
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