Cory V. McCray

Legislative District 45

Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

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## THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 276**

## Baltimore City Public School Buildings - Notice of Demolition - Repeal

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 276. Providing proper notice regarding demolition of Baltimore City Public School buildings is critical to increasing collaboration and efficiency amongst the relevant legislative bodies and impacted agencies.

Under the current law, there is an exemption to providing notice. It is imperative that due notice is given to City Council, the City Council President, and other relevant agencies to foster an environment of systemic transparency, clarity, and awareness. Under Senate Bill 276, a change will be made to the current law—removing an exemption and replacing it with a provision that mandates notice. Albeit this modification imposes a duty, it is necessary that this measure is implemented to ensure more efficient communication and shared understanding of the status of Baltimore City school buildings.

Having access to information prior to and during the demolition and/or partial demolition process would provide the appropriate agencies with the opportunity to coordinate, as well as adjust their plans before investing valuable time and resources. It is one step that will greatly impact the trajectory of our efforts in constructing and renovating our school buildings.

If enacted, Senate Bill 276 will take effect on July 1, 2022, and will require the adoption of new practices in accordance with the change in law.

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 276.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45th District