



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 81 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION - LIVE NEAR WHERE YOU
TEACH PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT**

Delegate Marlon Amprey

January 18, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

House Bill 81 establishes a *Live Near Where You Teach* homebuyer assistance program for Maryland certified teachers and administrators who work full time at an elementary or secondary school in Maryland. It would assist teachers with low interest mortgage loans, with down payment and closing assistance cost options, for the purchase of homes near where the teacher is employed. The program would be applicable to the purchase of either newly constructed or existing homes and would coordinate with similar programs offered by private employers and county and municipal governments to maximize the total amount that teachers can receive under the program.

The GBC supports House Bill 81 as a way to incentivize the recruitment and retention of teachers. Studies have shown that the length of teacher tenure has a positive effect on student performance. This bill would help attract and retain teachers by incentivizing home ownership for teachers, encouraging them to plant roots and stay in Maryland.

This bill is consistent with a key tenet in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth.

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland's business needs. Maryland's secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland's business sectors.

The *Live Near Where You Teach* homebuyer assistance program has the potential, if marketed and leveraged properly, to have a positive impact on increasing the length of teacher tenure, which can improve the quality of education for our students and to ultimately strengthen the workforce and economy as a whole.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 81.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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