

Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size

HB 890/SB 962

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Franca Muller Paz, and I'm a Baltimore City resident and a teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools. I support the Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size Act (HB 890/SB 962).

The passing of this bill is essential because our students deserve high quality instruction, with greater academic and emotional support from educators.

I have been teaching for over 12 years, and this year, with classes of over 35 students, and a student load of over 200, I can firmly say that large class sizes are tremendously detrimental to the academic and emotional well being of our students.

Despite the importance of quick and detailed feedback, at the rate of 10 minutes per essay, it takes me nearly 6 hours just to grade or do writing conferences with one class and ~35 hours when I have assignments due for all of my six classes. Though I routinely put in all nighters to grade students (at least once or twice a quarter) my huge teaching load means students don't get the critical feedback they need, when they most need it to support their learning.

These enormous numbers impact every aspect of working with young people. It presents enormous challenges to keeping up meaningful communication with all families. Dangerously, our role as mandatory reporters of abuse also takes a hit. It is much harder to spot red flags of a student crisis, in rooms packed wall to wall with students. It is much easier for kids to hide signs of abuse, when they can hide among a sea of their peers.

It is critical for the academic success and safety of our children to have the tools to bargain to reduce class size.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 890/SB 962, the Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size Act

Sincerely,

Franca Muller Paz
Spanish Teacher, Baltimore City Schools
District 45 Resident
franca.muller@gmail.com
(201)888-5618
1001 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202