

**Testimony of Aruna Miller**  
**Former Delegate and Candidate for Lieutenant Governor**  
**Before the Ways and Means Committee**  
**Collective Bargaining – Certificated Employees – Class Size**  
**FAVORABLE (House Bill 890)**

Chair Atterbary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **House Bill 890, Collective Bargaining – Certificated Employees – Class Size.**

First, allow me to thank Delegates Jazz Lewis, Charles, Solomon, and Wilkins for sponsoring this bill, which provides Maryland teachers with the simple right to discuss the size of their classroom when negotiating their contracts.

I submit this testimony, as a mother and the mother of a public school teacher and as a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing Legislative District 15 in Montgomery County. I saw first hand how vital the student-teacher relationship is in preparing children for the future. Without question, overcrowded classrooms make it more difficult for our teachers to do their job.

Over the course of this pandemic, our teachers have been on the frontline, risking their health, and working through remarkably trying circumstances to ensure that our children are afforded the opportunity to learn. Make no mistake, they have performed admirably and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. But, these challenges are taking a toll and we continue to see teacher attrition at alarming rates.

A recent poll conducted by the National Education Association found that an overwhelming majority of teachers are concerned about staff shortages, burnout, and workload. This is understandable considering the current pressures placed on our educators.

There are a host of actions the state must take to preserve and protect Maryland's world-class education system, including fully funding and implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's future. Today, we can take another step towards that end by passing legislation that allows teachers to have a say in class size.

For Maryland's parents, teachers, and students, I respectfully ask the Committee's favorable report on House Bill 890.