

DAVID TRONE
6TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND
APPROPRIATIONS
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JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE



UNITED STATES
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February 25, 2022

Delegate Vaneasa Atterbeary
Chair, Way and Means
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Alonzo Washington
Vice Chair, Ways and Means
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Vice Chair Washington,

I write to you in support of House Bill 890, which would allow the issue of school class sizes to be considered during collective bargaining for public school teachers. Our nation is facing a crisis in education and it is deeply affecting educators in the great state of Maryland. Teachers are experiencing tremendous amounts of job-related stress and burnout resulting in a mass exodus. We must take necessary actions to improve working conditions for teachers and create classroom environments conducive to creating meaningful connections with students and academic success.

Currently, Maryland schools are experiencing high teacher turnover rates. With teacher recruitment and retention at crisis levels and 60% of educators stating they are more likely to leave the profession or retire earlier than they had planned due to the pandemic, this legislation will give educators the opportunity to use their voices and engage in negotiations to maximize effectiveness in the classroom by setting class size limits. Reducing student-teacher ratios can contribute to higher student success through the establishment of life changing student-centered relationships. Teachers will be able to provide students with increased individualized attention and personalized learning accommodations, which are both important factors to increase student achievement. Additionally, supporting this legislation will help reduce overall educator burnout and turnover.

As I call on my colleagues in Congress to take action for educators, I now call on my colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly to do their part. It is time for Maryland to take steps towards supporting the educators of our nation's future. We must act now.

I fully support House Bill 890, and urge the members of the House Ways and Means Committee to give this bill all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", written in a cursive style.

DAVID TRONE

Member of Congress