

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING  
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

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March 3, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – House Bill 890 - Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated  
Employees - Class Size

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary:

I write to express my support for House Bill 890 (HB890), which would repeal the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class. This vital piece of legislation will lead to increased individual attention for students, reduce educator burnout, and strengthen student-educator relationships.


We are at a critical time for the future of education in Maryland. Educators have been at the forefront of responding to the pandemic. They have had to adjust to virtual learning and put themselves at risk for in-person teaching, all while maintaining high academic standards in educating our children. Unsurprisingly, teachers and educational staff are worn down and turnover is on the rise.

That is why this bill is so important. Few factors impact teacher success and classroom manageability than class size. Reducing class size allows for more personal attention for students, contributes to a more conducive learning environment, and reduces teacher stress, leading to less attrition. Maryland is one of only nine states that make class size an illegal topic for collective bargaining. And while we consistently place at the top of national rankings for educational quality, we should always be looking at factors that can improve outcomes for our students.

Our schools' success would not be possible without the efforts of our teachers, who play a vital role in our education system. It is time we listen to them and allow them to negotiate on the critical issue of class size during collective bargaining.

I request your favorable consideration of House Bill 890.

Sincerely,



Anthony G. Brown

AGB/bmw

CC: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee