

## **HB0799 Education - Low-Density Calculation - Mandated Funding**

March 6, 2023

Appropriations Committee

### **SUPPORT**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Francoise Sullivan and I am a member of the Kent County Public Schools Board of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB0799 - sponsored by Delegates Ghrist, Jacobs, Buckel, Griffith, T. Morgan, Otto, and Tomlinson. This bill requests that the state mandate supplemental funding for small school districts with low student populations.

With a county population of less than 20,000, ours is Maryland's smallest county. We have five schools that serve the entire county: a single high school, a single middle school, and three elementary schools. Our school enrollment has been under 2,000 students for many years. All of our schools are Title I and two of our elementary schools are Community Schools.

Meaningful funding is difficult for us to raise locally because we are so small, so any additional funding from the state has potential for transformative impact in our schools. Conversely, without this additional funding, we struggle to pay (and retain) teachers, keep classroom sizes manageable, and offer adequate support to high-needs students.

If it passes, HB0799 will help small counties like ours secure the additional resources we need to ensure the strength and quality of our Kent County schools. I request a favorable report on HB0799. Thank you for your time.

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