



AFT 340 AFL-CIO
Seton Business Park
5800 Metro Drive, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 913

**Publicly Funded Full-Day Prekindergarten Program - Tier I Child - Alteration of
Definition**

Senate Education Energy and the Environment Committee

March 7, 2023

1:00pm

The Baltimore Teachers Union supports Senate Bill 913, and urges a favorable report on this bill.

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents 8,280 teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, clinicians, librarians, secretaries, community school site specialists, bus transportation aides, and many more school-based and central office support staff. We are 4 out of 5 workers in Baltimore City Public Schools, serving 75,595 students and their families. Our national union, the American Federation of Teachers, has over 1.7 million members in the United States and its territories.

Senate Bill 913 alters the definition of a "Tier I child" who may be enrolled beginning in the 2022-2023 school year to a full-day prekindergarten program, to include children with a disability, children who are homeless youths, and children who are from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language.

This bill would expand access to full day pre-k to children who are in greatest need. As we continue to expand our pre-k offerings to students statewide, this bill is an important step in ensuring we are scaling up our capacity to meet the needs of our families and students.

BTU urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 913.