



**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

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COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and Environment

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Good afternoon, Committee Chair, Committee Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa “Terry” Ball, and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. As a retired principal with over 40 years in education, and as the representative of the MAESP Executive Board, I am here to support Senate Bill 394 which would add an acting principal as a member to the Maryland State Board of Education. This would signify to all of Maryland’s school principals that their voice matters and will be heard as they work to ensure students receive a high-quality education regardless of their learning setting.

Principals and school leaders matter and are essential to the success of their staffs, students and learning communities. As a member representative of those school leaders Pre-K to 12, the principal state board member would be able to express the reality of implementing board policies and legislation on an experiential level.

The Maryland State Board of Education’s mission is to ‘provide leadership, set policy, and advocate for continuous improvement of Maryland’s educational system’. The board’s mission can best be accomplished by the engagement of *all* stakeholders including principals. The teacher, student and parent voices on the board give perspective but without the principal voice it is just perception.

I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his work in sponsoring SB394 and thank each of you for your consideration. Passing SB 394 supports the State Board of Education in seeking stakeholder engagement and support. This will allow principals to give voice and perspective to discussion, planning and implementation of policy.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) strongly supports SB394.

*Theresa “Terry” L. Ball*