



March 28, 2023

Board Chair

Judy Mickens-Murray

Maryland General Assembly
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Board Vice Chair

Lolita E. Walker

11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

District 9

RE: House Bill 0437

Board Members

David Murray

Good afternoon, Senator Brian J. Feldman (Chair),

District 1

Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Judy Mickens-Murray and I serve as the Chairperson of the Prince George's County Board of Education. After careful consideration by the Board's Policy & Governance Committee, I would like to share the sentiments of the Board on several pending bills.

Jonathan Briggs

District 2

Pamela Boozer-Strother

District 3

Shayla Adams-Stafford

District 4

HB 0437

The proposed Office of Accountability and Compliance threatens the Board of Education as an independent governing body and undermines the will and voting rights of the electorate to choose individuals of their preference to oversee the governance, administration, and provision of public education in Prince George's County.

Dr. Zipporah Miller

District 5

Branndon D. Jackson

District 6

We can identify only Montgomery County with such an office, and the County Inspector General in that county has oversight authority over multiple county agencies, including county government. We object to Prince George's County Public Schools being targeted and singled out in this manner.

Kenneth F. Harris II

District 7

Madeline LaSalle Frazier

District 8

The establishment of this office would be a duplication of responsibilities already vested in and discharged by the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) which reports to the Board of Education.

Dr. Juanita Miller

Appointed Member

Curtis Valentine

Appointed Member

The functions proposed for the Office of Accountability and Compliance are repetitive to the OIA as well as the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education. OIA has and continues to effectively provide oversight of school district management, operates with tremendous transparency, provides timely and public reporting on investigations and prompt management response, and is accessible to public inquiries.

Walter L. Fields, MPA, MA

Appointed

Student Member

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz

The existing OIA falls within acceptable audit practices, overseeing the management of the school district with a reporting line to the Board of Education. It is a fully staffed and budgeted office. Creation of the Office of Accountability and Compliance would come at great and unnecessary public expense, while not providing any greater oversight than currently provided by the OIA.

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Monica M. Goldson

Chief Executive Officer

We respectfully ask you to oppose HB 437.