

Dear members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Peter Kannam, Principal of Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School, a Title I school in East Baltimore operated by the Johns Hopkins School of Education. Prior to serving as a Principal, I served two terms on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, led teacher and principal support organizations, and taught in Baltimore City Public Schools. I am also the husband of a Baltimore City Public Schools teacher and the father of three sons who have all attended Baltimore City Public Schools.

Simply put, our students need more time in school. That's why I am here today to offer my support for Senate Bill 338, which aims to create a pilot program for schools interested in moving to an extended year model.

This investment is worth it: My thirty years of experience in Baltimore City Schools have shown me that all students can and will excel, when given the appropriate support. And I strongly believe that an extended year approach is one of those supports necessary for accelerating learning and improving student outcomes in Maryland schools.

I lead a school that serves around 650 students. Before the pandemic we were the most improved K-8 in Baltimore City. But even so, many of our students were behind grade level. While Baltimore City Public Schools has been a leader in many ways through the pandemic, recent data shows that our students have even more ground to make up, and a traditional calendar with 180 days of school, 7 hours a day is not enough time to provide the deep level of learning our students deserve.

As a result, there is a pressing need for innovative solutions that can help students catch up and stay on track academically. And extended year schooling is one such solution.

By increasing the number of school days or spreading out breaks throughout the year, extended year schooling can:

- Increase learning time for students, which has shown to lead to accelerated achievement gains in other districts;
- Increase opportunities for teachers to go deeper in content areas; incorporate more experiential, project-based learning; and adjust pacing according to student needs;
- Increase professional development days for staff, giving teachers additional time for collaborative planning and professional learning communities.
- Address the problem of "summer learning loss," which disproportionately affects low-income students.

I strongly believe that the pilot program proposed in Senate Bill 338 can help to bring the benefits of extended year schooling to Maryland students. By providing \$25 million in innovation grants to schools interested in adopting an extended year approach, this program can help to cover the operational and capital expenses associated with such a change. This, in turn, can make it more feasible for schools to adopt extended year schooling.

Therefore, I urge you to support Senate Bill 338 and the pilot program it proposes. Extended year schooling can be a valuable tool for accelerating and improving student outcomes, and the pilot program can help to bring these benefits to Maryland schools. Thank you for your consideration.