

MARLON AMPREY  
Legislative District 40  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 26, 2023

**Testimony of Delegate Amprey in Support of House Bill 81: Live Near Where You Teach Program**

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

It is widely known that teachers have a tremendous impact on students' lives. Teachers make up a huge part of our future generation and therefore, the future of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. Not only do teachers contribute greatly to our community, but also the members of the school staff such as school psychologists, paraprofessionals, school secretaries, guidance counselors, etc., play a tremendous role in our students' lives. All of these members work endlessly to make sure their students feel safe, comfortable, and understood in the classroom environment and beyond. Therefore, it is our responsibility to make sure these teachers and school staff members are getting the **best assistance** in order to provide for their students to the best of their abilities.

House Bill 81 enables the Community Development Administration in the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer a home buyer assistance program that assists teachers and school staff members to receive certain low-interest mortgages for the purchase of homes near where the member is employed; it also enables the Administration to administer certain community development projects to provide school staff members with certain financial assistance to buy homes near where the individual is employed under certain circumstances.

**We are currently experiencing a nationwide teacher shortage and wish to bring in and retain teachers in Baltimore and throughout the State of Maryland.** This program made for teachers will not only support our school staff by providing financial benefits, but it will also work to encourage, incentivize, and attract teachers in areas where we need them the most. Through this legislation, we seek to add to the current programs for employer-assisted housing financing. A new program dedicated to our dedicated educators is *needed* to ensure that all of Maryland's eligible school staff have access to financial resources to live near their respective schools, incentivizing them to stay and help their students prosper.

The enactment of HB 81 will alleviate both the financial troubles of school staff members and the staffing shortages of Maryland's schools. Additionally, creating more homeowners who are teachers will ensure we have more strong social pillars in needy communities. Living in the same districts as their students will grant Maryland's teachers and school staff the opportunity to better understand their students and make a more comfortable living for themselves.

**For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 81.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlon" and last name "Amprey" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Marlon Amprey  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Maryland