

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Mayor, City of Baltimore

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Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support of
House Bill 81 – Community Development Administration –
Live Near Where You Teach Program – Establishment**

January 26, 2023

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports any legislation that would help to attract and retain teachers. In such a critical time in this world and with the shortage of highly qualified persons willing to go into the teaching profession, such programs as low interest rate mortgages and providing financial assistance to purchase homes near where a person teaches is another manner in which to attract and retain teachers in Baltimore City public schools and elsewhere.

Such programs envisioned under this legislation for various professions is not new. The programs as administered through this legislation (closing assistance, low interest rates, down payments) as well as the salary increases under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will undoubtedly be another attractive ingredient to attract and retain persons in the teaching profession.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 81 and urges a favorable report.

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