

Testimony from Essence Smith, Baltimore City Public Schools Community Schools
Site Specialist

HB85/SB206: Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size

Official Testimony
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the [House Ways & Means Committee / Senate Finance Committee],

My name is Essence Smith, and I'm a Baltimore resident and a member of the Baltimore Teachers Union. I support [HB0085/SB0206].

This bill will repeal the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class.

Passing this bill is essential because research shows smaller classes lead to better outcomes for all kids – especially those who need help the most. Class size reduction has been shown to result in higher test scores, better grades, more engaged students, fewer disciplinary referrals, and less teacher turnover.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on [HB0085/SB0206] Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size.

Sincerely,

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