

**Testimony from Parent and Community Advisory Board for Baltimore City  
Schools**

**SB206 - Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated  
Employees - Class Size**

**Before the Senate Finance Committee**

**February 9, 2023**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon members of the Senate Finance Committee

The volunteer members of the Parent and Community Advisory Board, or PCAB, for Baltimore City Schools submits this testimony to give our full support of SB206 for the purpose of repealing the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class; and generally relating to collective bargaining for public school employees.

We see this bill as a bill about working conditions for educators, which is one of the most important factors affecting our students' learning conditions. We are neither looking for hard class size caps nor making class size a mandatory subject of bargaining. That said, class size is an important factor affecting our children's ability to succeed in school, and it is a priority issue for parents.

Since its formation in 2020, Baltimore City's chapter of the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) coalition conducted 11 listening sessions with over 300 Baltimore City Schools stakeholders, and then ran a campaign through which 1194 stakeholders voted on priority areas for improvement. Amongst parents specifically, class size stood out as the area receiving the highest percentage of parent votes.

It's important to us that our children are able to receive personalized instruction from educators who are not spread too thin by large class sizes, and we want to remove the legal prohibition against our children's educators being able to discuss class size when they are negotiating for their working conditions. Class size is a key part of educator working conditions, and therefore to learning conditions for students. Class size should not be an illegal topic of discussion for collective bargaining.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB206. Thank you.

Sincerely,

PCAB (Board members listed as follows):

Larry Simmons, Chair, Senate District 41

Angie Winder, Vice Chair, Senate District 43A

Jessica Shiller, Secretary, Senate District 41

Melissa Schober, Treasurer, Senate District 43A

Kiera Davis-Griffith, Senate District 6

J'aime Drayton, Senate District 43A

Rachel Duncan, Senate District 46

Jayson J. Green, Senate District 40

Nicole Humphreys, Senate District 43A

Maria Peña-Guerrero, Senate District 43A

Charles Smith, Senate District 41

Essence Smith, Senate District 8

Kendra Summers, Senate District 46

Tia Webb, Senate District 40