

Testimony from **Blanca Rosalez**, Baltimore City College Student, SOMOS Student Organizer, Writing Center tutor and a Baltimore resident Resident

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

Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon members of the **Senate Finance Committee**

My name is **Blanca Rosalez**, and I'm a **Baltimore** resident and a member of SOMOS - Students Organizing a Multicultural and Open Society as well as a writing Center Tutor at Baltimore City College. I give all my support to SB206 because 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 extremely important to build a stronger community within our schools as well as to improve students' safety, as a student, I've encountered a lack of communication with my teachers due to the amount students there are in a classroom by not allowing students to have more individual interaction within their teachers, which creates a non-commutative and less safe environment. Having less amount of students in a classroom will provide a better learning environment, as there will be stronger communication with our teachers, which allow us as students to feel more comfortable asking the teacher questions without feeling judged by a greater group of students as well as to build confidence within ourselves to participate more in class discussions, As a writing center tutor I've worked with different students one on one as well as in a group of no more the five students and I can say that they have been wheeling to participate, interact as well as to do their work with not a great amount of help and after a tutor session they have stated they feel more comfortable to work on assignments of their own including students who are not completely fluent in English. This is why I believe this bill is so important. As a student, I want to be able to talk to my teacher freely about any issue that I might be having without having to remind them what my name is even though I have been in their class for the past two years. It is also very important to remember that school safety has been jeopardized due to gun control issues and it will be safer to have a classroom with less amount of kids which will allow teachers to have more control over an emergent situation and make it less chaotic for students in the classroom.

I respectfully urge this committee to issue a favorable report on **SB206** Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size.

Sincerely,

Blanca Rosalez

Baltimore City College

SOMOS

blanca.rosalez2023@baltimorecitycollege.us

443-922-0662

