



2/27/2023

Re: Support of HB 1219/SB 0893 – Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) to urge your support of HB 1219/SB 0893 – Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023.

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of Maryland's 17 Community Action Agencies, which collectively serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward eradicating homelessness and poverty to realize our vision of ensuring that all Maryland individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities.

MCAP supports HB 1219/SB 0893 because of the significant impact that the recruitment and retention of high-quality educators has on all Maryland students, especially on the children with low-income that our organizations serve.

If passed, the bill would:

- Set targets for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs, including requiring the State Department of Education to create a dashboard for educator recruitment, retention, and diversity.
- Require the State to join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to create reciprocity among participating states and reduce barriers to license portability and employment.
- Establish the Grow Our Own Educators Scholarship Program and Fund to provide scholarships to individuals who pledge to work full-time as a teacher in the State.
- Reform the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program, transfer its administration to the Department, expand eligibility, and require greater publicity of the program to HBCUs and students who are members of under-represented groups.
- Establish the Educator Internship Stipend Program, which provides stipends of up to \$20k for student teachers participating in an internship or practicum as an undergraduate or graduate student leading to a teaching certificate.

It is MCAP's position that this legislation will positively impact the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified educators, which in turn will improve the access to education for all Maryland students. Access to quality education is a key component to tackling poverty, and this bill takes a critical step towards ensuring that all students have the best possible educational opportunities and outcomes.

If there is any additional information that I can provide for you as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me at amartin@maryland-cap.org, or by calling 205-757-0764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Angela Martin", written in a cursive style.

Angela Martin, Executive Director