

Tanya Montgomery  
JSEP- Transfer of Locally Employed Educational Professionals  
Date: March 6, 2023

Delegate Ebersole,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Tanya Montgomery, the current Principal of Western Maryland Children's Center, a secure detention facility in Washington County Md. I transitioned to the Department of Juvenile Services in July of 2022 after an 18-year career as an educator and administrator with Baltimore City Schools. Prior to moving forward with the vetting process for this position, I contacted the Human Resources Department at MSDE to find out about the transfer of leave. I was told that as a state employee, my leave would transfer after accepting employment. This was a concern for me as I had accrued a very healthy sick leave bank over my time with city schools and my unused sick time does factor into my retirement.

After transitioning to DJS, I found out that I was not eligible to transfer the sick leave I had accrued from my local school system, nor was I able to accrue leave appropriately based on my tenure. Since the transfer of leave was not legislatively mandated, those of us who worked for local school systems were not afforded the same rights as teachers who worked directly for MSDE. I am requesting that the legislation be adjusted retroactively to ensure that all staff who transferred into JSEP beginning July 2022 receive the same benefits that our colleagues from MSDE received. This would include a retroactive adjustment for accrued sick leave as well as recognition of seniority allowing for an adjustment to the vacation schedule based on years of service. We are all educators for the State of Maryland and whatever leave we had accrued through our local systems should be able to transfer with us when accepting employment with DJS.

Sincerely,

Tanya Montgomery  
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