



February 27, 2023

Chairwoman Vanessa E. Atterbeary,  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Rm. 131  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers **favorable** support for House Bill 1219 –Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023. **This bill is on the 2023 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

In effect, this legislation will require the State Department of Education to establish specific goals for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs; transfer the administration of the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program to the Department and alter the qualifications for the program; 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; and establish the Educator Internship Stipend Program.

As it stands, there is a need to employ and retain educators in the State of Maryland. The implementation of the bill is critical to our efforts to employ more educators, in support of ensuring Maryland's students, across the entire state and in all communities, are provided with a quality education. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports House Bill 1219.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland