

**Testimony from Ayanna Nesbitt, Educator and Parent, District 41
Resident
HB153**

Baltimore City House of Delegation

02/01/23

Position: FAVORABLE

Good morning members of the Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Ayanna Nesbitt and I'm a District 41 resident. I am an early childhood educator and a parent of a bright preschooler. My son and students are being raised during a difficult time for their parents. They see so much more than we used to while being raised. They are exposed to so much and unfortunately are maturing and growing up faster than we'd like. Television, social media, video games, sports, and music alike are all contributing to the upbringing and downfall of our people. I would like to see an education system that encourages youth, hears the youth and responds. How can we respond if we continue to ask and not reply, telling them they can depend on us but they see no action. I believe that the students involved on the school board should have the right to vote. Who better to have a say in their education and their future.

Serving on the school board is a demanding position that is unpaid. This limits the candidate pool to individuals who can afford their time to meetings that are often during the working day, people who have flexible work schedules, daily child care and more resources. Unfortunately these resources are not always available to families of our students. The opportunity to serve should be accessible to our parents and guardians of City Schools students. This bill establishes a task force to study what compensation makes the most sense and to submit recommendations. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB153. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ayanna Nesbitt

Parent & Educator