

SHANEKA HENSON  
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Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Joint Committee on  
Children, Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 881**

Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Vice Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 881, which would establish an innovative school scheduling pilot program in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. This bill would allow the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to create a voluntary pilot program for up to 5 years in select schools to utilize alternative scheduling models that do not have prolonged gaps in instructional time.

Alternative scheduling models like year-round schooling, extended school days or years, and four-day school weeks have shown great promise in improving academic achievement, especially for at-risk and low-performing student populations. The flexibility these models provide can allow for more continuous instruction, targeted intervention and enrichment opportunities, teacher professional development time, and better accommodation of student needs. Anne Arundel County should be given the chance to innovate and determine if an alternative model could benefit their students.

The pilot included in HB881 maintains robust oversight, planning, and transparency requirements, including notifying relevant stakeholders, negotiating with employee representatives, and reporting outcomes. The bill also maintains existing requirements for minimum hours of schooling. This cautious approach will allow potential benefits to be weighed against any challenges that arise during the voluntary pilot programs.

I believe this legislation aligns well with the State Board's encouragement of alternative scheduling models and provides an excellent opportunity for Anne Arundel County to evaluate innovative approaches to improving student outcomes. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB881, and I urge the committee to support this common-sense school innovation pilot. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SHANEKA HENSON".

Hon. Delegate Shaneka Henson

