



January 29, 2025

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and Education, Energy, and Environment Committee members. My name is Chris Truffer, and I am the Executive Director for the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, representing secondary level school administrators across the entire state of Maryland. We work to ensure that school leaders are empowered, developed and connected and advocate on their behalf for the betterment of our students, schools and communities. It is a pleasure and honor to provide testimony in support of SB0113.

The success of our schools rests on the ability of principals to fully understand and effectively execute policies, regulations and laws related to a wide variety of topics including but not restricted to school safety, security, student academic achievement, health and well-being, curricular implementation, implementation of Blueprint and myriad additional issues and challenges that face the state educational system and in turn each of the local districts.

Having a principal on the State Board of Education can create greater synergy between policy makers and implementers and can foster more productive collaboration, enhance communication and help craft better informed decisions. Including the vital perspectives of principals, as a conduit of not only information but their knowledge, expertise and a worldview that spans across the educational landscape, can only enhance and strengthen what is ultimately implemented at the school level.

Principals have a deep and thorough understanding of the needs of Maryland's diverse student populations, including those with disabilities, English language learners, students from low-income families, advanced learners and those with other needs requiring a varied and broad set of supports. Their input can guide the development of equitable policies that address the varied needs of Maryland's eclectic student body. In this way, having a principal on the Maryland State Board of Education ensures that decisions are made with a comprehensive understanding of the on-the-ground realities of running a school and supporting students' success.

Thank you, Senator Kramer, for sponsoring this bill and thank you to the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee for holding today's hearing. We are grateful for your collective advocacy on behalf of students, parents, teachers, staff and our dedicated principals and administrators who will greatly benefit from this bill's passing. We hope you will give a favorable report for SB0113.

Sincerely,

Chris Truffer

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