



## Senate Bill 791

### *Public Schools-Career Ladder-Teacher Classroom Teaching Time*

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Date: Feb. 19, 2025

From: Chip Bertino, Worcester County Commissioner

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and committee members. I am Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino and I am writing to support Senate Bill 791, which would ensure teachers spend the majority of their time where they're needed most—in the classroom. The Blueprint mandates that teachers spend just 60% of their time in the classroom and 40% collaborating. This is simply unattainable, particularly now, when the state is experiencing a severe shortage of teachers. Students aren't away from the classroom long enough for teachers to spend 40% of their time collaborating. We don't have the thousands of additional teachers and support staff that it would take to allow teachers to spend close to half their time outside of the classroom.

This legislation proposed by Senator Carozza would simply return the ratio for teaching and collaborating to 80/20.

The Accountability and Implementation Board unanimously recommended a pause in the timeline to expand collaborative time in January. Delaying an increase in collaborative time is critical for teachers, at least for now, to effectively serve their students. Adjusting this ratio would give Maryland's counties the time needed to meet Blueprint requirements while continuing to support students and educators. I urge you to support SB 791. Thank you for your service, your time and your consideration.