



Testimony - HB 1169, Montgomery County - Board of Education - Mandatory School  
Holidays MC 6-25

Favorable with Amendments  
House Ways & Means Committee

March 3, 2025

Christopher C. Cano, MPA

Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Atterbeary & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 10,000 workers in Montgomery County Public Schools. We wish to express our support for House Bill 1169 with amendments. This legislation mandates the closure of Montgomery County public schools in observance of important cultural and religious holidays. This bill represents an essential step toward fostering inclusivity and recognition of the diverse communities that make up Montgomery County. However, we urge the committee to amend the bill to ensure that these holidays are designated as paid days for school staff.

As it stands, our members—who include paraeducators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other essential school personnel—already face financial strain due to several “no work, no pay” days throughout the school year. Adding additional unpaid days off will disproportionately impact these hardworking employees, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet.

For many school employees, missing even one day of pay can mean the difference between affording rent, groceries, or medical expenses. The Montgomery County Board of Education must be directed to treat these mandatory holidays as paid leave to prevent further financial hardship for our workforce. Ensuring pay parity on these days aligns with the county’s commitment to equity and fairness.

We respectfully urge the committee to amend HB 1169 to require that all affected employees receive compensation for these newly designated holidays. Recognizing

these holidays without providing financial protections to workers only shifts the burden onto those who can least afford it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership in making Montgomery County's schools more inclusive and ensuring economic fairness for all education employees.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA  
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs  
SEIU Local 500