



Testimony - HB 129, State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal
Favorable with Amendments
House Ways & Means Committee
February 5, 2025
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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 23,000 workers across Maryland including family child care providers, educational support staff in our public schools, and college professors. Our members have a role in the lives of Marylanders from cradle to career. We wish to express our support for Maryland House Bill 129, with amendments. The current makeup of the State Board of Education is lacking in expertise to adequately address the challenges of those workers that make our public schools operate. While House Bill 129, which seeks to amend the membership of the State Board of Education to include a school principal, we also recognize that HB 524 & HB 923 are separate pieces of legislation to amend the State Board of Education with an early childhood development professional and an educational support professional respectively. We believe these additions to the State Board of Education will provide invaluable insight and perspective to the decision-making process in education policy, ultimately benefiting students, educators, and communities throughout Maryland.

We therefore ask rather than piecemealing additions to the State Board of Education, HB 129 be amended to reflect the addition of these other critical educators who contribute to the well being of our children in Maryland.

In conclusion, House Bill 129 is a timely and necessary step toward improving the governance and direction of education policy in Maryland. By adding a school principal, an educational support professional, and an early childhood development professional to the State Board of Education, we ensure that the voices of those who make our schools and education our children run on a daily basis are heard at the highest level of

policymaking. We urge you to pass this bill in order to create a more inclusive, practical, and student-centered approach to education in Maryland.

We ask you all to support HB 129 with amendments and provide a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

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