



Testimony - HB 1207, Montgomery County - Board of Education -
Compensation MC 7-25
Favorable
House Ways & Means Committee
March 5, 2025
Terrence Cavanagh
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. We stand in strong support of House Bill 1207, which seeks to adjust the compensation of the Montgomery County Board of Education members to reflect the increasing responsibilities and demands of the role.

The Board of Education plays a vital role in shaping the future of our students by making crucial decisions regarding curriculum, budgeting, policy implementation, and educational equity. However, for too long, the compensation of Board members has not reflected the level of commitment, expertise, and time required to effectively serve in this capacity. Balancing multiple careers results in not giving students the attention they deserve from members of the Board of Education.

HB 1207 proposes a phased increase in the salaries of Board members, recognizing that this role is not just a part-time commitment but a full-time responsibility that requires significant engagement with students, parents, educators, and policymakers. By increasing the compensation to a more equitable level, this bill ensures that highly qualified and diverse individuals—regardless of their financial circumstances—can afford to serve in this capacity without undue financial burden.

Additionally, the inclusion of improved scholarships and stipends for student board members is a commendable step toward fostering youth civic engagement and making public service more accessible to students of all backgrounds. The leadership

experience gained in this role is invaluable, and providing financial support enables student members to participate fully without financial hardship.

Investing in our Board of Education members is an investment in the quality of education in Montgomery County. We urge this committee to vote in favor of HB 1207 to ensure that our educational leadership is fairly compensated and able to dedicate their full energy to serving our students and schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Terrence Cavanagh
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500