HB923 – State Board of Education – Membership – Educational Support and Administrator Members
Ways and Means Committee
February 25, 2025

FAVORABLE

Good afternoon Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the committee,

My name is John Clark, I serve as the proud Vice President of AFSCME Local 434, and I have worked as a bus driver with Baltimore County Public Schools for 17 years. It has been such an honor and a privilege to not only serve my community by safely transporting young learners to and from school each day, but also to organize with my fellow co-workers through our union to create better working conditions.

AFSCME Local 434 members work in a variety of roles to support the successful operation of Baltimore County Public Schools including transportation, grounds and building operations and maintenance, food service, and more. Our members work to create safe and healthy learning and working environments for students and staff across BCPS every day. Our on the ground experiences provide insight into the challenges and successes our schools face each day. And just like me, there are over 44,000 people working across the state of Maryland in an education support role that makes it possible for our schools to function. However, right now we don't have a voice on the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education is an important education policy making body that enacts important rules, decisions, and guidance that influence the work of our public education system and our schools. The opportunity for an education support professional to serve on the State Board of Education would allow important perspectives and experiences to be lifted up in decisions that impact school support staff across Maryland.

We believe our education system can improve through the inclusion of an education support professional member serving on the State Board of Education. For all these reasons we ask that you support House Bill 923.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 923.