



Testimony - HB 923, State Board of Education – Membership – Educational Support
and Administrator Members

Favorable

House Ways & Means Committee

February 25, 2025

Elly Cowan, Compass Advocacy

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 923. 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. House Bill 923 will amend the membership of the State Board of Education to include a school principal and education support professional. 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.

The State Board of Education must 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 923 is a timely and necessary step toward improving the governance and direction of education policy in Maryland. By adding a school principal, and an educational support professional to the State Board of Education, we ensure that the voices of those who make our schools and education of 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 923 and provide a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elly Cowan
Compass Advocacy
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500