
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 3, 2025

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Opposition on HB1252 – County Boards of Education – Appointed Members in
Leadership Positions - Prohibition

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

Harford County's Board of Education consists of nine voting members, three that are appointed by the County Executive and six that are elected for each councilmanic district. The President of the board is elected by the full membership of the board, both elected and appointed members. It is the members' goal to choose from among themselves the individual the members determine is best suited to lead the board. The individual selected could be either an elected or an appointed member. Disqualifying a member from potential leadership based on how they were placed on the board does not make sense and serves no legitimate purpose.

A school board candidate's sole qualification to become an elected member is to have the political ability to receive the highest vote total. An elected member may not have experience in education matters or leadership. As County Executive, responsible for appointing the three board members, I do not consider potential members in terms of their ability to win an election. Rather, I consider their relevant experience, commitment to public education, and leadership potential.

Public education is the foundation of our society. To be successful, our purpose must be to present the best possible leaders to guide our schools. This bill is contrary to that goal, and I respectfully request that the Ways and Means Committee report unfavorably on HB1252.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Robert G. Cassilly