



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-3185 • 301-858-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Fax 410-841-3175 • 301-858-3175 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

January 29, 2025

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Walls, District 40

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen R. Tolos, District 25

Treasurer

Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40

Secretary

Delegate Jamila J. Woods, District 26

Financial Secretary

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

Chaplain

Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr., District 27B

Parliamentarian

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

Historian

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur, District 11A

Executive Director

Ufuoma O. Agarin, J.D.

MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47

Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10

Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41

Senator Nick Charles, District 25

Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40

Senator Michael A. Jackson, District 27

Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45

Senator C. Anthony Muse, District 26

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20

Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44

Senator Alanzo T. Washington, District 22

Senator Mary L. Washington, District 43

Senator Ron Watson, District 23

Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39

Delegate Jacqueline T. Addison, District 45

Delegate Tiffany Alston, District 24

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, District 13

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32

Delegate Adrian Boato, District 23

Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A

Delegate Frank M. Canaway, Jr., District 40

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

Delegate Debra Davis, District 28

Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A

Delegate Kevin M. Harris, District 27A

Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24

Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30A

Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12

Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23

Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A

Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8

Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., District 34A

Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10

Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46

Delegate Ashanti Martinez, District 22

Delegate Aletheia McCaskill, District 44B

Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, District 21

Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10

Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14

Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25

Delegate Denise G. Roberts, District 25

Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32

Delegate Malcolm P. Ruff, District 41

Delegate Gary Simmons, District 12B

Delegate Deni Tavaras, District 47B

Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23

Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26

Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, District 22

Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28

Delegate Greg Wims, District 39

Delegate Caylin Young, District 45

Chairwoman Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 118 (HB118) – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.

This bill establishes an interstate compact that facilitates easier licensure recognition for teachers across participating states, improving teacher mobility and providing a more diverse, qualified pool of educators for Maryland's schools. This is particularly beneficial for Maryland's historically underserved communities, where a shortage of qualified teachers often results in larger class sizes and fewer educational opportunities for Black students. By making it easier for teachers to move between states, **HB118** helps bring more qualified educators into classrooms that need them most, improving educational equity for Black students. As a **2025 Black Caucus priority agenda bill**, this bill aligns with our commitment to ensuring that Black students receive the best education possible.

Black students in Maryland will benefit from greater access to educators from diverse backgrounds, which has been shown to enhance academic achievement and foster a more inclusive learning environment. Studies have demonstrated that when Black students are taught by Black teachers, they are more likely to feel understood and supported, which translates into better academic performance and higher graduation rates. By easing the licensure process for teachers, this bill creates opportunities to bring more Black educators into Maryland's classrooms, ultimately benefiting Black students who deserve an education that reflects their lived experiences.

Furthermore, HB118 supports Black teachers by streamlining the licensing process, giving them more flexibility and opportunities to practice in different states. Teachers, especially Black educators, often face systemic barriers when attempting to relocate or transfer credentials, and this bill reduces those challenges by creating a framework for easier portability of teaching credentials. This is crucial in empowering Black teachers to expand their professional horizons and bring their talents to schools across the country, while also offering them protections against discrimination through secure information sharing.

Finally, the bill mandates the creation of a compact commission to oversee the

implementation of the compact, ensuring accountability, transparency, and adherence to professional standards. This offers an added layer of protection for Black educators, ensuring that their rights and professional conduct are safeguarded while fostering trust in the system. By creating an organized structure to manage teacher mobility, the bill will promote fair and efficient processes that support all teachers, especially those from marginalized communities. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports House Bill 118.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland