



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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

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January 29, 2025

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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