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Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair

Delegate Anne Kaiser, Vice Chair

Kelly Olds, TABCO President, Educator

410-507-6195

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Support of HB 1257

As the President of TABCO, I am writing in support of Delegate Stein's bill HB 1257. TABCO supports HB 1257 because, among things, transparency is one of TABCO's core values. We, as a union, "believe in being clear and honest about the actions we take and the reasons we take them." That is directly from our Values statement. We think this is the right approach for the school system too.

The opposite of transparent is opaque. When you can't see what's going on, when things are opaque - people guess about what is happening in an organization, and when they guess, they often guess the worst, even when it is not true. HB 1257 will help stop the negative conjecture - conjecture that is generally bad for our school system and how people view the budget process. Many of our members are both employees and parents of students in our system, meaning they are taxpayers. They also deserve this additional information- not just because it impacts their jobs, but because it impacts their children's futures.

We believe that good things happen when people know more about the organizations and institutions that impact their lives. As stated in our values statement - transparency is achieved through "open and timely communication" and "ongoing budgetary review." We think that this makes sense for us and also makes sense for our school system too. HB 1257 aligns with our values and is the right policy for Baltimore County, for employees and taxpayers, and for the students we work to serve every day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kelley J Olds*