

Testimony in Support of SB957

Before the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 13, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Maryland House Bill 1115, which addresses an unintended consequence affecting educators maintaining certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process.

I have been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2007, and I know firsthand the rigor and commitment required to earn and maintain this certification. National Board Certified Teachers are often leaders in their schools—mentoring colleagues, supporting teachers pursuing certification, and helping strengthen instructional practice for students.

Due to the timing of national policy changes to the 10-year MOC cycle, some teachers who are actively maintaining their certification are not currently being recognized the same way under Maryland policy. This gap was clearly not the intent of the original legislation, and it creates an unfair situation for a small group of experienced educators.

Without a correction, teachers who are fully maintaining their certification may lose the recognition the state intended to provide for this professional accomplishment, despite continuing to meet the same rigorous standards.

HB 1115 provides a practical and targeted fix to ensure that teachers who continue to meet the high standards of the National Board are recognized appropriately. The fiscal impact is limited, and correcting this issue aligns with Maryland's commitment through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to value and compensate accomplished educators.

Passing HB 1115 is a matter of fairness and sends an important message that Maryland supports veteran teachers who continue to invest in their professional excellence and mentor the next generation of educators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Shaina Solomon

National Board Certified Teacher (since 2007)

Anne Arundel County, Maryland