

March 13, 2026

House Ways and Means Committee

130 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senators Gile and Simonaire and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to respectfully request your support for Bill SB957 that would recognize successful completion of the National Board renewal process under the previous 10-year certification system as equivalent to two Maintenance of Certification (MOC) cycles. Educators who completed renewal under the prior system should receive the same recognition, eligibility, and financial incentives tied to this status as those who completed certification under the current framework.

I have proudly served as a teacher in Anne Arundel for 25 years. In 2009, I achieved National Board Certification, an accomplishment that represented years of dedication to refining my teaching practice and improving outcomes for my students. In 2019, I completed the rigorous renewal process required under the former 10-year certification system. I was incredibly proud to maintain this distinction and to demonstrate my ongoing commitment to professional growth and excellence in the classroom.

Recently, I was surprised and disappointed to learn that educators who completed their certification under newer guidelines are eligible for financial incentives and recognition that are not extended to those of us who successfully renewed earlier. This has created an unintended inequity in which teachers with fewer years of service in our county receive incentives that are not available to educators who have demonstrated long-term commitment and completed the demanding renewal process.

Teachers who renewed under the 10-year system met rigorous professional standards and demonstrated continued mastery of teaching practice. Recognizing that renewal as equivalent to two MOC cycles would honor the integrity of the work completed under the prior system and ensure fairness among National Board Certified Teachers. It would also reinforce the message that our state values sustained excellence and long-term dedication in the profession.

I respectfully ask for your support in ensuring that educators who renewed their certification under the prior system receive full recognition and eligibility for all incentives tied to Maintenance of Certification. This change would correct an inequity and affirm the value of experienced teachers who have invested decades in serving our students and communities.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued support of educators. I would be grateful for the opportunity to share more about my experience if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,
Dana Manojlovic'
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