

March 13, 2026

House Ways and Means Committee

130 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

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

I am respectfully requesting your support for Bill **SB 957**, which would recognize and justly compensate educators who completed the National Board Certification renewal process under the previous 10-year certification system.

I began teaching in Anne Arundel county in 2005 and worked diligently to earn my initial National Board Certification in 2009. I renewed my certification in 2019, because I understood the value in continuing to push myself to examine my teaching practices and better myself as an educator in order to help my students. I was, and still am, in one of the lower performing schools in our county, and I am proud to use my expertise to enhance my students' learning.

Recently, it has come to my attention that other teachers who hold my same level of certification are receiving a greater level of compensation simply because they completed their certification under different guidelines. As an experienced teacher in the county, I am disheartened by the inequity of this policy. All National Board Certified teachers have met the same rigorous standards, and we should be compensated as such.

The National Board recognizes successful completion of the Renewal process under the prior 10-year certification system as equivalent to completion of two consecutive MOC cycles. Therefore, we should be compensated in the same manner as those who are on the current MOC cycle.

I respectfully urge you to support **SB 957**, which would ensure fair compensation for teachers who completed the National Board Certification renewal process under the previous 10-year certification cycle.

Sincerely,
Lauren Rakvic
Eastport Elementary
Anne Arundel County

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