

Public Statement on SB0554

Perspective from a Former Baltimore City School Board Community Panel Member

As a former member of the Baltimore City School Board Community Panel, appointed through the Parent and Community Advisory Board for Baltimore City Public Schools and representing families through Disability Rights Maryland, I share my firsthand perspective regarding the proposed elimination of the Community Panel through SB0554.

I served on the Parent and Community Advisory Board for Baltimore City Public Schools (PCAB) from 2018–2022, including serving as Vice Chair in 2019 and Interim Chair in 2020. My appointment to PCAB came through Disability Rights Maryland as the parent representative of a Baltimore City Schools student with a disability.

In 2019, I served on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners Community Panel representing PCAB in reviewing and recommending candidates for the school board.

The panel intentionally brought together voices from across Baltimore’s education and civic landscape, including representatives from the Baltimore Teachers Union, Baltimore City Council, Baltimore Family Alliance, and Disability Rights Maryland.

Panel members reviewed applications, evaluated leadership experience, and discussed the needs of Baltimore City Public Schools to ensure community perspectives were part of school system governance.

SB0554 would eliminate the Community Panel and change how members of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners are selected.

School governance decisions affect students, families, educators, and neighborhoods across Baltimore. Community participation in selecting school leadership therefore has real value.

Serving on the panel demonstrated how deeply Baltimore residents care about the future of our schools. Regardless of where individuals stand on SB0554, understanding the role the Community Panel plays in bringing community voice into school governance is important.

Jessica T. Fautleroy, MSW, LCSW-C

Former Member, Baltimore City School Board Community Panel (2019)

Member, Parent and Community Advisory Board for Baltimore City Public Schools (2018–2022)

Vice Chair (2019) | Interim Chair (2020)

Parent Representative appointed through Disability Rights Maryland