

# **SB0409 Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dana Schallheim

Position: FAV

Greetings, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee,

My name is Dana Schallheim, and I am the longest serving elected member of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, first elected in 2018 and reelected in 2024. Anne Arundel County Public Schools is the 37<sup>th</sup> largest public school system in the country serving more than 84,000 students and employing more than 12,000 teachers and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you in support of SB0409 which would provide better compensation for future Board of Education of Anne Arundel County members beginning July 1, 2029. **I speak today as an individual and NOT on behalf of the Board.** Thank you to the Anne Arundel County Senators and Anne Arundel County House Delegation for sponsoring this bill and to Senator Gile for heading the charge. I respectfully request a favorable vote.

I want to make clear to the committee that this legislation is **NOT** about me, or my colleagues, Dr. Tobin and Mr. Silkworth. We are all termed out at the end of our current term which ends December 2028. Instead, this is about future Board members and the overall health of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.

Better Board member compensation is important for the following reasons:

- **Acknowledging Responsibility** - Maryland Boards of Education are the only elected body that has executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial functions. We provide oversight and governance, employ the Superintendent, make complex policy decisions, and approve the budget which currently stands at approximately \$1.9B for the operating budget a \$231M capital budget. Higher compensation formally recognizes the substantial time, expertise, and dedication required for these essential public service roles.
- **Providing Necessary Support** - Board of Education of Anne Arundel County members have no committed staff for each Board member and do not receive personal benefits of any kind including health insurance. We do have one executive level assistant for the entire Board and her assistant. Both keep the business of the Board running and handle constituent services on behalf of all members.
- **Acknowledging Time** - Approximating a full-time job at times, often spilling into evenings and weekends, I spend my time on the following:
  - Constituent services via phone calls, emails, and texts,
  - Preparing for and attending numerous meetings including our public business and committee meetings, closed sessions, and conferences.

- Attending school events (I could be out every night most weeks at events), and
- Engaging constituents at community events.
- **Attracting and Retaining Qualified Candidates While Broadening Representation** - Offering better compensation makes the position more accessible and appealing to a wider range of individuals, reducing financial barriers, and creating a board that better reflects the racial and socioeconomic makeup of Anne Arundel County and the students it serves for a year-round job, at times equivalent to a full-time job.
- **Enhancing Professionalism and Accountability** - Establishing better compensation can help standardize expectations for performance and time commitment, potentially attracting individuals with professional skill sets and relevant experience (e.g., in data analysis, governance, or finance).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB0409. I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

Best,

Dana Schallheim

Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, District 5

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443-534-2660

**Sen. Gile Written Testimony\_SB 409.docx (2).pdf**

Uploaded by: Dawn Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE  
CHAIR



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

**Testimony in Support of SB 409 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education -  
Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarship - Increase**

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB 409 increases the compensation of the president, vice president, and other members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and the scholarship award for the student member of the county board. This bill will not impact current Board members as they all term out at the end of 2028. This legislation will impact future Board members and is an effort to improve the overall health of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.

The president of the county board's salary will change from \$17,000 to \$25,000, the vice president's salary will change from \$16,000 to \$24,000, the other board members' salaries will change from \$15,000 to \$23,000 each. This Act does not apply to the salary or compensation of the president, vice president, members, or student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education while serving in a term of office beginning before the effective date of this Act which is October 1, 2026. The provisions of this Act concerning the salary or compensation of the president, vice president, members, and student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office. This limitation does not apply to an individual appointed or elected after the effective date of this Act to fill out an unexpired term.

A student member who completes a full term on the county board shall be granted a scholarship of \$15,000 to be applied toward the student's higher education costs for a term that begins before July 1, 2029 or \$23,000 for a term that begins on or after July 1, 2029.

## **Background**

Maryland Boards of Education are the only elected body that has executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial functions. They provide oversight and governance, supervise the Superintendent, make complex policy decisions, and approve the budget which currently stands at approximately \$1.9B for the operating budget and \$231M for the capital budget. A higher compensation formally recognizes the substantial time, expertise, and dedication required for these essential public service roles.

## **Solution**

Offering better compensation makes the position more accessible and appealing to a wider range of individuals, including those who cannot afford to volunteer for what is a very time-consuming, year-round job, sometimes equivalent to a full-time job.

Increasing compensation can help remove financial barriers for people from lower-income backgrounds, parents of school-aged children, and members of historically marginalized groups. This can lead to a board that better reflects the racial and socioeconomic makeup of Anne Arundel County and the student body it serves.

Establishing better compensation can help standardize expectations for performance and time commitment, potentially attracting individuals with professional skill sets and relevant experience (e.g., in data analysis, governance, or finance).

## **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact on the State. Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$32,700 in FY 2029 and \$64,000 annually beginning in FY 2030. County revenues are not affected. There is no impact on Small Business.

All elected members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education are slated to stand for election in the 2028 presidential election. Therefore, the next term of office for which salary increases apply will begin December 4, 2028, slightly less than halfway through fiscal 2029. Therefore, all seven elected members (including the president and vice president) receive just over half a year of increased compensation in fiscal 2029 resulting in an approximately \$32,700 increase in expenditures in that year. Beginning in fiscal 2030, all seven elected members receive a full year of increased salaries representing \$56,000 in additional county expenditures.

The full \$8,000 expenditure increase for a student member scholarship is realized beginning in fiscal year 2030 with the completion of the term of the student member whose term begins on July 1, 2029.

## **Closing**

SB 409 is limited in scope, fiscally disciplined, and consistent with the intent of existing law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 409.

	Compensation			
	President	Vice Chair	Adult Members	Student Member
Allegany County	\$7,428	\$6,077	\$6,700	\$7,500
Anne Arundel County	\$17,000	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$8,000
Baltimore City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Baltimore County	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Calvert County	\$6,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0
Caroline County	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Carroll County	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$3,500
Cecil County	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Charles County	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$1,000
Dorchester County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	IPAD
Frederick County	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Garrett County	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Harford County	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0
Howard County	\$18,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$5,000
Kent County	\$2,400	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Montgomery County	\$29,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$5,000
Prince George's County	\$30,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$5,000

Queen Anne's County	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
St Mary's County	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Somerset County	\$3,000	\$2,700	\$2,700	N/A
Talbot County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0
Washington County	\$14,000	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$0
Wicomico County	\$4,000	\$3,700	\$3,700	N/A
Worcester County	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0
Scholarship				
Set by County Commissioners				
Base salary + \$250 per year served				
Entitled to health insurance				
Equal to highest annual resident undergraduate tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board that is charged at a 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland				

**SB0409Silkworth02252026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Silkworth

Position: FAV

## OneMinute Speech Supporting SB4090

*From a 49Year Anne Arundel County Teacher and United States Army Reserve Veteran*

Distinguished Chair and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Robert A. Silkworth, and I have served the students of Anne Arundel County as a teacher for 49 years. I am testifying today as a retired 49 year veteran teacher who is in fact a proud product of the school system I served for 49 years, having been raised in Brooklyn Park. In that time, I have watched our school system evolve, grow, and respond to extraordinary challenges. But one truth has remained constant: strong, stable, and effective leadership is essential for our students to **Belong, Grow, and Succeed**.

That is why SB4090 matters.

Our Board of Education members carry immense responsibility—overseeing policy, budget decisions, school safety, academic standards, and the wellbeing of more than 84,000 students. Yet, the compensation for this level of service has not kept pace with the expectations placed upon them. When compensation remains stagnant, we limit who can afford to serve. We risk losing diverse voices, working parents, and community leaders who are deeply connected to our students' lived experiences.

SB4090 ensures that board service is accessible, equitable, and sustainable. It allows us to attract and retain dedicated public servants who can fully invest their time, expertise, and energy into guiding a school system that supports every child.

If we want students to truly belong... if we want them to grow... if we want them to succeed... then we must also support those charged with leading that mission. SB4090 is not a reward—it is an investment in the future of our schools and the children we are all here to serve.

I ask for your support for SB4090. Our students are worth the investment and it will continue to pay dividends.

Thank you.

Robert Silkworth

49 Year Retired Anne Arundel County Teacher

Veteran, United States Army Reserves

# **2026 SB0409 Testimony Against 2026-02-27.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

## Testimony Against SB0409

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0409.

I am opposed to

- Increasing the compensation of the president, vice president, and other members of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to be \$25,000, \$24,000, and \$23,000, respectively; and
- increasing the scholarship award to \$23,000 for a student member of the board who completes a full term on the board for a term that begins on or after July 1, 2029.

I am not against an increase for these hard working individuals, but an average increase of 50 percent seems too high for these lean times. Current remuneration is \$17,000, \$16,000, and \$15,000, respectively. Perhaps a more modest increase of \$1,000 per person instead of \$8,000 per person would be more appropriate

Please enter an unfavorable decision about SB0409.

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February 25, 2026