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House Bill 0565 County Boards of Education – Elections – District Voting 2 (Fair Representation Act)

Greetings Delegate J. Long and Honorable Members,

I speak today in **FAVOR** of HB0565. As a Parent, special education advocate, and CAESS union member I believe the students, families, staff and community as a whole would be better represented by this act. Currently, those seeking a seat on the Board of Education must live within a district, but beyond that they have no motivation to serve that district. One must only look at the last election cycle for proof of this. The representatives for District 1 and District 2 and District 3, for what have historically been independent and non-partisan roles, declared themselves as a group under the umbrella of the Republican party. The D1 and D2 candidates raised little money and held no events on their own, rather tying themselves to the D3 candidate's fundraising and campaigning. Instead of representing their districts, they have instead voted as a block to enact anti-LGBTQ policies, remove protections for minority groups, dismantled the Anti-Racism policies and demeaned staff and students. It is my belief that if the candidate for a district seat was elected by the constituents of their district, they would have to campaign in those districts, listen to their constituents and ultimately be held accountable in a fair representation. I ask this assembly to please vote in favor of HB0565 and give the power back to the people of Calvert County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Solidarity,

Joseph Cormier