
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Opposition to House Bill 1288 – County Boards of Education – Appointed Members in Leadership Positions – Prohibition

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I respectfully submit this letter in opposition to House Bill 1288.

County boards of education are entrusted with the governance and oversight of our local public school systems. As independent governing bodies, they are responsible for selecting their own leadership from among their members in a manner that best reflects the experience, expertise, and working dynamics of the board. House Bill 1288 would unnecessarily interfere with that local governance by prohibiting appointed board members from serving in leadership positions such as president, vice president, chair, or vice chair.

Appointed members of county boards of education are selected through formal processes that often involve rigorous vetting and confirmation procedures. In many cases, these members bring valuable professional expertise, community leadership, and institutional knowledge that strengthen the board's ability to govern effectively. Automatically disqualifying these individuals from leadership roles solely based on how they came to serve on the board disregards their qualifications and limits the board's ability to organize itself in the manner it believes best serves the school system.

Local boards must have the flexibility to select leadership based on merit, experience, and the needs of the school system at a given time. The State should not dictate internal leadership structures that prevent boards from choosing the most capable member to guide their work. Such decisions are best left to the board itself.

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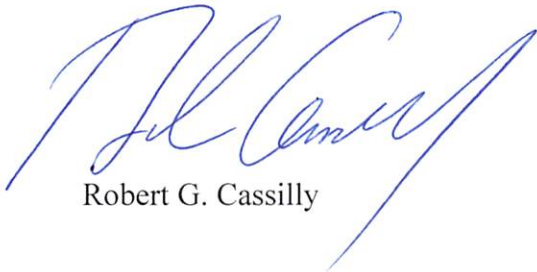
HB 1288 would also create unnecessary state oversight and enforcement mechanisms over a matter that has historically been handled locally. This represents an unwarranted intrusion into the governance of local boards of education.

Harford County believes that local boards of education should retain the authority to determine their own leadership and organizational structure without statutory restrictions based on appointment status.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1288.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. G. Cassilly", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Robert G. Cassilly".

Robert G. Cassilly