



P.O. Box 525  
Aberdeen, MD 21078

Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1288.

HB 1288 establishes an important safeguard to ensure that leadership positions on county boards of education remain accountable to the voters they serve. While appointed members can bring valuable expertise and perspective to boards of education, leadership roles such as board president or vice president carry significant authority and influence over the board's agenda, governance, and priorities. It is reasonable that these positions be held by members who were directly elected by the community. This approach strengthens public trust in school board governance and reinforces democratic accountability.

HB 1288 also establishes a clear and fair compliance process. County boards are provided notice and time to correct violations, and enforcement mechanisms are structured to encourage prompt compliance while maintaining transparency. The bill's measured penalties ensure that the law is taken seriously while allowing boards to resolve issues responsibly.

Public education governance works best when communities have confidence in the fairness and accountability of the system. By reserving leadership roles for elected members, HB 1288 helps reinforce that confidence and promotes responsible governance of Maryland's public schools.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 1288 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Jones". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Vicki Jones, Branch President  
[Branch7019\\_B@harconaacp.org](mailto:Branch7019_B@harconaacp.org)  
(443) 619-7908