



County Council of Baltimore County
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Testimony in favor of HB 89

Dear Chair Ebersole, Vice Chair Pasteur, and Members of the Delegation:

I write in support of **House Bill 89**, which would authorize the Baltimore County Council to enact local legislation granting the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General authority over Baltimore County Public Schools.

The Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General plays an important role in promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources. Since its creation, the office has provided independent oversight that strengthens public confidence in county government operations.

House Bill 89 would provide Baltimore County the option to extend that same oversight framework to Baltimore County Public Schools through local law adopted by the County Council. Importantly, the legislation does not mandate such action but instead allows the County Council to determine whether and how that authority should be implemented at the local level.

Given the scale of the Baltimore County Public Schools system and the significant public investment it represents, ensuring strong oversight mechanisms is essential to maintaining public trust. Providing the option for the Inspector General to review matters related to BCPS would help strengthen transparency and accountability while supporting responsible governance.

As members of the Baltimore County Council, we have seen firsthand the value that independent oversight can provide. Allowing the County the flexibility to expand the Inspector General's authority through local legislation would provide an additional tool to ensure that public resources are managed effectively and with appropriate transparency.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **favorable report on House Bill 89**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Izzy Patoka Baltimore County Council