



**County Council of Baltimore County
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Testimony in favor of HB 1140

Dear Senator Washington and Members of the Baltimore County Delegation:

I write in support of **House Bill 1140**, legislation that would align Baltimore County Board of Education districts with the County's recently expanded Council districts.

As you know, Baltimore County voters approved a charter amendment expanding the Baltimore County Council from seven to nine districts. House Bill 1140 would make a corresponding adjustment to the structure of the Baltimore County Board of Education by establishing nine elected school board members, one from each County Council district while reducing the number of appointed members from four to two.

Aligning school board districts with the County's Council districts will help simplify the electoral structure for residents and create greater consistency in how voters engage with local government representation. During election cycles, many residents express confusion about district boundaries and representation. Aligning these districts will help ensure voters have a clearer understanding of who represents them and will make participation in local elections more straightforward.

In addition, increasing the number of elected members on the Board of Education strengthens democratic accountability and helps ensure that communities across Baltimore County have direct representation in decisions affecting our public schools. Given the size and diversity of Baltimore County, it is important that families, educators, and residents have strong representation that reflects the communities our school system serves.

Baltimore County Public Schools play a critical role in the success of our county and the future of our students. Ensuring strong governance and clear representation on the Board of Education will help support thoughtful oversight, transparency, and continued focus on student success.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Baltimore County Delegation to support **House Bill 1140**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Izzy Patoka Baltimore County Council