

Testimony on HB 1422 – Public Schools - Redistricting - Community Advisory Committees For Student Assignment

Ting Mei Chau

Montgomery County

Good afternoon all delegates,

My name is Ting Mei Chau and I am a Montgomery county resident and parent of MCPS student. As an adult immigrant to this country 21 years ago, I am grateful for all the opportunities this country offered to me. I moved to Montgomery county from New York City in 2006 and truly settled down here and call it home.

Montgomery county's embrace for diversity and inclusion is something I never experienced compared to Tennessee, Georgia, New York while I lived there. And the school system's very diverse student body also give my child the experience he needs. In a nut shell, we do feel Montgomery a home, a community, and a place proud to be.

It is purely for this purpose I urge you to support HB 1422 – Public Schools – Redistricting – Community Advisory Committees for Student Assignment. This bill requires local government to establish a certain community advisory committee for student assignment within 30 days after a county board of education votes to begin a school redistricting process, to review and provide input on certain redistricting proposals.

Because it is very simple – the sense of home and community, school stability is lost. Redistricting is very disruptive to every student, teacher, family, and community that has any, ANY, chance of being impacted. We understand that there are always needs to review school capacity and facility to meet ever changing student body and needs. But in the past each impacted community would be informed, involved and had good discussion and buy in for the solution to the problem. In a county wide, district wide scenario, that's every of Montgomery County's 163,000 might be impacted. It is true probably not everyone will, but the possibility of it still drives families anxious and face uncertainty. How do arrange afterschool activities, how to rebuild kids social cycle with uncertainty, how to manage the commute, and how to keep the PTA and parent support groups manageable and functional?

Thank you, Lily, for trying to address those wide concerns. I believe what this bill will do, is to make sure there are sufficient community engagement, but in a bigger scale, and in a formal structure, and have a solid, transparent timeline and mechanism, to ensure all impacted communities, geographically, linguistically, religiously, could participate in the decision-making process.

Montgomery County is geographically big, with complicated transportation patterns and needs, and demographically diverse, with people coming from 158 countries. And public school system is the biggest public system that impacts the most people, families, and communities. Having any idea for changing the system would need a lot of preparation and deliberation. If we can have more than 80 commissions on various public works, from how can we not having one for such big impacted issue? So this bill will add that critical layer to it.

Thank you!

Meeting Calendar
Vacancy Announcements and New Online Application Procedure
Council Policy Regarding Appointments
County Executive
Advocacy Request Form
Parliamentary Procedure Training
Training Certification
Contact Us

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board  
Aging, Commission on  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board  
Airpark Liaison Committee  
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council  
Alcoholic Beverages Advisory Board  
Animal Matters Hearing Board  
Appeals, Board of  
Board of Education Compensation Commission  
Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors  
Cable and Communications Advisory Committee  
Cable Compliance Commission  
Charter Review Commission  
Child Care, Commission on  
Children and Youth, Commission on  
Citizen's Review Panel for Children  
Committee Evaluation and Review Board  
Committee to Recommend Funding for the Public Election Fund  
Common Ownership Communities, Commission on  
Community Action Board  
Consumer Protection, Advisory Committee on  
Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission  
Crossroads Development, Commission - Inactive  
Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group  
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council  
Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC)  
East County Citizens Advisory Board  
Electrical Examiners, Board of  
Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee  
Ethics Commission  
Ethnic Affairs, Committee for  
Fire and Emergency Services Commission  
Firearm Safety Committee  
Forest Conservation Advisory Committee  
Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee  
Glen Echo Part Partnership Board of Directors  
Hate/Violence Committee  
Health, Commission on  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Homelessness, Interagency Commission on  
Human Rights Commission  
Interagency Coordinating Board for Community Use of Public Facilities

Investment Trustee, Board of  
Juvenile Justice, Commission on  
Landlord-Tenant Affairs, Commission on  
Library Board  
License Commissioners, Board of  
Local Management Board for Children, Youth and Families  
Mental Health Advisory Committee  
Merit System Protection Board  
Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board  
Montgomery Cares Program, Advisory Board for  
Noise Control Advisory Board  
Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee  
People with Disabilities, Commission on  
Permitting (Department of) Services Advisory Committee  
Planning Board  
Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board  
Recreation Advisory Boards  
Registration for Building Contractors, Board of  
Revenue Authority  
Rustic Roads Advisory Committee  
Sign Review Board  
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board  
Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee  
Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee  
Social Services, Board of  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Strathmore Hall Foundation Board of Directors  
Sustainability Working Group - Inactive  
Taxicab Service Advisory Committee  
Technology Investment Fund Loan/Grant Committee - Inactive  
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board  
Veterans Affairs, Commission on  
Victim Services Advisory Board  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)  
Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)  
Water Quality Advisory Group  
Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board  
Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee  
Women, Commission for  
Workforce Development Board