



HARFORD COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION · MSEA · NEA

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Testimony SUPPORT of House Bill 283

Harford County- Board of Education- Terms of Appointed Members

House Ways and Means Committee

January 27, 2021

Chrystie Crawford-Smick
Harford County Education Association

The Harford County Education Association supports HB 283, which would stagger the terms of the appointed school board member from those of the elected members with amendments.

HCEA represents nearly 4,000 educators and school employees who work for Harford County Public Schools, teaching and preparing our 36,000 students for careers and jobs of the future. HCEA represented employees include certificated educators and education support professionals, our bargaining units include 75% of HCPS employees.

HCEA supports House Bill 283 which includes the staggering the terms of the school board members for Harford County Public Schools. Staggering the appointed and elected terms provides consistency and maintains institutional knowledge on the Board of Education. In addition, we support the swearing in of all elected board members on the 1st Monday in December following the election. There appears to be no substantial reason to wait until July for newly elected members to be sworn in. Leaving existing members in place until July, removes the accountability that members have to their constituents.

HCEA urges a favorable report of House Bill 283 as introduced.

Chrystie Crawford-Smick, President

George Michael Curry, Certificated Vice President

Colleen Kaplan, Treasurer

Elizabeth Jones, MSEA UniServ Director

Victoria Bridges, ESP Vice President

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