

March 29, 2022

TO: Members of the Committee

RE: Opposition to SB908

I am writing today to voice my complete opposition as a resident of Harford County to SB 908 and to ask that you issue an UNFAVORABLE REPORT to stop this destructive legislation.

The concept of keeping local Boards of Education in control of local government sounds innocuous, as does the concept of fully elected school boards. But like so many evils cloaked in banality, it is not.

Permitting Board of Education members to be appointed by the Harford County Executive is an open invitation to politicize and radicalize the Board of Education. Whether you hew liberal or conservative, I hope you can agree that allowing any one party to dominate appointments that will impact our children's future is a bad idea.

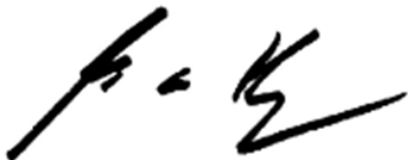
The current format for appointment of Board of Education Members by the Governor works for Harford County and Harford County Public Schools. Whether appointed by liberal or conservative Governors the members have provided thoughtful stability and carried out their duties in a fairly nonpartisan manner. This is undoubtedly the best, most appropriate way to approach educating our future.

The reality is that Boards of Education are become political battlegrounds, and our children should never be political pawns. They will be if you do not oppose this legislation.

Just take a look at the current candidates for Harford County Board of Education for proof. Currently, there are two races with unopposed candidates running on radical fringe platforms. In District E, there is an acknowledged anti-Semite running unopposed who was responsible for disbanding The Harford County Young Republicans. In District B, the candidate who is running organized Board of Education protests which embraced the Proud Boys, a group that has been acknowledged as a terrorist entity. Harford County is already facing the potential for dangerous politicization of the Board of Education, we cannot risk adding to that.

Harford County been sued for civil rights violations more by the ACLU and the Department of Justice than any other district without the added burden of this legislation. The Maryland Constitution guarantees a well-funded, equitable education for all children. Passage of this legislation will destroy that guarantee, and deny any sense of educational equity within Harford County Public Schools.

For the sake of our children and our future, please issue an unfavorable report and stop this destructive legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina Kazimir', written in a cursive style.

Gina Kazimir / 125 Williams St / Bel Air MD 21014