

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chairman
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
The Honorable Alonzo Washington
Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

RE: Requesting UNFAVORABLE REPORT: SB 908 and HB 603 – Harford County Board of Education Membership

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Atterbeary; Vice-Chairman Kagan and Washington
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

As a former Board of Education member, I do not believe this bill benefits the students, parents and the Harford County community. I believe it is an attempt to politicize the Board as it seeks to address a non-existent problem. The Board currently has 6 elected and 3 appointed members. The appointments are made by the Governor who obtains the advice and consent of the County Executive. These positions have been historically filled by community members who are committed to serving our students and families. Unfortunately, local Boards of Education have become the latest battlefield in the cultural and political wars that are raging in our country. This bill is being pushed by an active minority of the community who are unhappy with the science-based decisions made by the current Board of Education during the pandemic. Shifting the appointment authority to the County Executive will guarantee that the needs of politicians will be prioritized over the needs of students.

I do not want to see the students of Harford County become casualties of the current political warfare. Our students deserve better and need your protection. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Cassandra R. Beverley