

My name is Makeda Scott, and I am providing testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 656**, which seeks to ensure fair and equitable representation on the Baltimore County Board of Education by modifying the elected member districts and establishing a structured redistricting process following each decennial census.

As a **former member of the Baltimore County Board of Education and former Chairwoman of the Board**, I understand firsthand the critical role that fair representation plays in shaping policies that impact our students, educators, and communities. A well-defined redistricting process is essential to maintaining a school board that accurately reflects the diverse populations it serves. Senate Bill 656 provides a clear and transparent framework for adjusting board districts based on population shifts, ensuring that all Baltimore County residents have equal representation in decisions affecting their schools.

This legislation is a necessary step toward strengthening public trust in the education system by eliminating ambiguity in how districts are reapportioned. By requiring that school board districts be realigned based on census data, **SB 656 helps prevent inequitable representation and ensures that every community has a fair voice in shaping education policy.**

I urge you to support **Senate Bill 656** to promote fairness, transparency, and accountability in Baltimore County's school board elections. Thank you for your time and consideration.