The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes HB709 Education - County Boards of Education - County Superintendent Contracts. This bill would require that a contract of a county superintendent of schools or a chief executive officer, executed on or after June 1, 2019, include a provision that if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement may not exceed the monthly salary multiplied by 12 if the amount of time remaining in the contract is more than 12 months, or the monthly salary multiplied by the number of months remaining in the contract if there are less than 12 months remaining in the contract. The bill would also prohibit a cash settlement from including any compensation other than cash, except that it may include health benefits. HB709 would also prohibit a county superintendent or chief executive officer who is removed for immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty from being compensated as described above.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports the authority of local boards of education to negotiate a contract with its superintendent. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability. As such, we oppose efforts, such as HB709, to change the appointment authority for local superintendents of schools or any interference with our authority to negotiate a contract with our superintendent.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB709.