STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 27, 2016

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
410-974-3901
TOLL FREE: 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, Senate Bill 493 – *Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016* will become law without my signature.

Senate Bill 493 establishes a Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Program for first-year teachers who participate in the program to be afforded at least 20% more time than other teachers to be spent on mentoring, peer observation, assistance with planning, or other preparation activities. The bill also increases the maximum State matching stipend for teachers who hold National Board Certification (NBC) from $2,000 to $4,000. These are worthy ideas that my Administration supports.

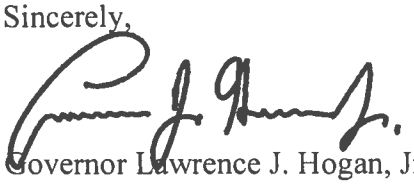
What I cannot support is the use of a bill focused on statewide education policy as a vehicle for the General Assembly to intervene in a labor dispute at the local level. Included with this legislation is a last-minute amendment that provides a $1,500 stipend to teachers in Anne Arundel County, following a decision by the local teachers union to jettison the special school-specific stipend program in favor of using those funds for across-the-board pay increases to teachers during the county salary negotiation process.

Our fiscal 2017 budget delivers a record $6.3 billion for K-12 education, including almost $418 million for Anne Arundel County, an increase of nearly four percent over fiscal 2016. Statewide, we are contributing more to education than any Governor in the history of the State.

While I support retention of teachers and providing the appropriate incentives to keep the most effective teachers in the classroom, I object to the last minute amendment specific to Anne Arundel County. Labor contracts between county leaders and local teachers unions are the business of the county officials. If members of the General Assembly are eager to have their voices heard in labor contract negotiations, I would suggest they lobby their county executives and county councils instead of seeking out backroom deals that contradict the negotiations of the local teachers union and that require taxpayers from across the State to fund a teacher incentive program in only one county.

Despite the reservations that I have expressed above, Senate Bill 905 will become law without my signature.

Sincerely,



Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.