

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Tara Scully <taramscully@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:36 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School budget - move that money!

Please pass the amendment filed by Council members Calvin Ball & Jen Terassa will move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes.

Tara Scully  
3102 Ramblewood Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Howard county resident for LIFE.

Hammond Elem  
Hammond middle  
Atholton class 1999

Keep class rooms small.

There are 21 kids in my son's Kindergarten class room.

I have never understood how daycares are so strictly limited to how many kids per educator and then 21 five year olds is acceptable. With no dedicated teachers aid.

It's not the school system I grew up in.

We can do better.

- Tara =)

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Leslie Toussaint <l2saint@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:06 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class sizes

I support the amendment filed by Council members Calvin Ball & Jen Terassa to move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes!

Leslie Toussaint  
Triadelphia Ridge ES

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Korin Sharp <iamkorin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:08 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School funding

Dear County Council,

Please use the additional \$5.1 million in funding to prevent increasing the already large class sizes in HCPSS, as well as more funding for Restorative Justice training and support.

Thank you.

Korin Sharp  
9600 Chaton Rd  
LAUREL, MD 20723

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Stacey Folkemer <stacey.long2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:03 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Vote to restore class size

Good morning,

I am a parent and resident of Columbia and am very concerned about the increased class size in Howard County Schools. One of the reasons we moved to Howard County is because of the schools, so it's disheartening to think that my child might not get all of the benefits I imagined when moving here.

Please vote to restore class size so that our children can continue to get one of the best educations in the country.

Thank you!  
Stacey Folkemer

5242 Lightfoot Path  
Columbia, MD

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sheryl Goering <srgoering@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 8:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Support Amendment to CR-53!

Dear Councilwomen and Councilmen, I urge you to support the amendment to CR-53 increasing funding to HCPSS to maintain class size. There is evidence that our children suffer when class sizes increase. Please support the funding of current class sizes. Our kids need to be a priority! They are the future of our county and our country.

Respectfully,  
Sheryl Goering

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Amber Naden <Amber\_Naden@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 7:54 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore Class Sizes

To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE vote for the amendment to restore class sizes. As a teacher in the county, I assure you that smaller class sizes are key for student achievement. I taught for 14 years in PG county, where class sizes are as large as the projections for next year. It is almost impossible to give struggling learners what they need in such a large group. I value class size more than avoiding furloughs or raises. The children should come first.

Thank you,

Amber Naden  
Worthington Elementary

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Joshua Budich <jbudich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:29 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** SUPPORT HoCo Smaller Class Sizes!

County Council Representatives,

My name is Joshua Budich, and as a Howard High School Alum & father of two Triadelphia Ridge ES students, I am in support of smaller class sizes and the amendment filed by Councilwoman Terrasa & Councilman Ball.

This November I will be supporting candidates that prioritize our schools, specifically supported smaller class sizes, and most importantly put our kids first!

Thank you,  
Joshua

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[www.joshuabudich.com](http://www.joshuabudich.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kelley Flesher <kelleyflesher@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:04 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Maintain Class Sizes at Current Levels-to CR-53

Dear County Council,

I am writing to support the recently created amendment to CR-53 that will maintain classroom size. Increased class size is harmful to students and teachers alike. There are many research supported reasons as to why class sizes should remain as small as possible. One of the most important being safety and the mental health of our students.

Teachers are our front line staff. Large class size make it difficult for teachers to really know their students and near impossible to spend the time needed attending to the students social-emotional needs. A student who connects with their teacher and feels supported is less likely to be bullied or become a bully. Social isolation and lack of community connectedness can lead to violence; whether self-harm or acts against others.

We all know that teachers are asked to wear many hats in today's modern classroom. One thing that has not changed is that a teacher is still a primary supportive figure in a student's life. Teachers should have the resource of time to get to know students to provide this vital supportive role.

Thank you for the important work that you do.

Respectfully,

Kelley Flesher  
8340 Glenmar Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kim Birnbaum <ksmiles@myfastmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:09 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** class sizes

Dear County Council Members,

Without knowing the language of the ammendment I will just convey the importance of maintaining or ideally reducing class size in our public schools. There are numerous studies including a recent one showing that class size was directly correlated to test scores and to student long-range outcomes/success.

Increasing class size is a lose-lose situation for all involved. It makes teachers jobs harder, students get less attention, and test scores and student outcomes suffer. Many of us, particularly in the eaastern part of the county are in very crowded schools, and our classes are at or are very close to the maximum class size. Increasing class size likely has a harder felt impact on our special needs kids, most of whom are mainstreamed without additional staff. We have less paraeducators in our classrooms, than we did before Dr. Foose was superintendent. Adding 1 more student makes it that much more difficult for a teacher to have time to help those that need some extra attention and further drains time and attention from all students.

While additional funding for the schools is needed in many areas, not the least of which is special education which suffered massive funds redirection under Dr. Foose, decreasing class size or at least not increasing it, will have a lot of bang for the buck. Increasing class size to balance budgets would have a poor return because of the hidden cost of decreased student outcomes, lower test scores, and lower quality of education as well as the consequences of these to lower school system ratings & making HCPSS less attractive to prospective teachers and therefore less competitive in hiring quality teachers.

We would be wise to heed the advice of all of the studies that have shown that lower class size improves student and test outcomes. I hope for all the reasons stated above that your ammendment will ensure that class sizes are not increased.

Sincerely,  
Kim Birnbaum

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** BVivrette <bvivrette@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School Amendment

Please support the amendment filed by Council members Ball & Terrasa to move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes. This is the right thing to do, and why people continue to move to Howard County: the Schools!

Brian Vivrette

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Phil Ranker <phil.ranker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore funding to Howard County Schools please!

Hello,

I am humbly requesting that you vote in the affirmative for the amendment to restore 5.1 million to the HCPSS budget in order to maintain current class sizes. As a teacher in the system, I can assure you that keeping the class sizes the way they are and not increasing them is of paramount importance. If class sizes are increased, it is much more difficult to get to know our students and help them in any way that they may need it. Please vote to add the 5.1 mil to the budget.

Sincerely,

Phil Ranker

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Katie Mertz <katiedoylemertz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:08 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class sizes

Thank you for all you do! As an Elkridge resident with two children in HCPSS schools, the increased class size trend is alarming. Please help the children in this county and restore funding to maintain class sizes at current levels.

Thank you,  
Katie Mertz  
7104 Collingwood Court  
Elkridge, MD 21075

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** lindaleslie@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CR-53

Dear Council Members,

As a parent at Wilde Lake and Homewood, I know first hand what happens when kids fall through the cracks. It is critical that we do not increase class sizes and find other ways to address our current financial woes. I urge you to support CR-53 to provide additional Education funding.

- Linda Leslie

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Meg Ricks <capizziricks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Amendment to fund maintaining class sizes

I was very glad to hear about the amendment filed by council members Terasa and Ball to keep school class sizes from increasing next year and to give more funding for restorative justice training and support. I urge you to pass this amendment. Next year I will have two children in one of the largest elementary schools in the county and one in the largest high school. Increased class sizes would be exacerbating the difficulties these schools are already facing due to overcrowding and I know they are not the only schools facing these challenges. Increasing class size will not help keep our kids safe and it will not help them to do their best. It will certainly not help us to close the achievement gap. We also clearly need to address discipline issues in a way that is effective and fair.

Thank you for your time and your service in behalf of our children.

Meg Ricks  
Elkridge

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Rachel Tarp <rachel.tarp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Please fully fund our schools

Dear Council Members and County Executive,

As a Howard County parent I ask you to please fund our schools, so that class sizes do not exceed acceptable student teacher ratios. This is of utmost importance to our children and communities. We want to maintain not only statewide but nationwide exceptional public education in Howard County. This won't continue with overcrowded schools. Please fully fund the budget! Parents (taxpayers and voters), educators, and most importantly our children are counting on you!

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Tarp

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Marisa McCurdy <marisahiggins@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Howard County Class Size

Council Members,

I'm writing to express my support for any funding measures that would enable classroom sizes to either remain intact or decrease. I realize there is a dire budget situation in Howard County for the Board of Education but I also feel that the classroom size situation is in a dire situation. I have three children in Howard County schools and directly witness the detrimental impact of large class sizes. I wholeheartedly disagree with Council Chair Sigaty's comment that class sizes are not at the dire emergency point.

Marisa McCurdy  
6802 Norris Lane  
Elkridge, MD 21075

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lisa M. Cramer <Lisa\_Cramer@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 12:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class size

Hello,

Thank you for working hard to meet the needs of Howard County citizens and employees. At the present time I am told that class size is not a priority to the council. As a teacher of 16 years in this county that is very upsetting to me. Our children and our staff deserve the right to learn and have their needs met. When there is only one teacher and over 22 children in kindergarten or any grade someone will have their needs not met. It could mean less face time with the teacher or lack of supplies because of small groups being made too large. Perhaps because our county continues to have high test scores and graduation rates you all have been misled that everything is okay...but it is not. I can guarantee you that if you continue down this path of large class sizes our stellar scores that we pride ourselves on will not continue. When students have less face time with the teacher or too many students in a group they miss out on valuable instruction. Please make class sizes smaller our students and tax paying citizens deserve better.

Regards,

Lisa Cramer  
Kindergarten Teacher/co ITL  
Centennial Lane E.S.

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just the way we play the hand," Randy Pausch.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Victoria Budich <vbudich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:52 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Class Sizes

County Council Representatives,

My name is Victoria Budich and I'm a TRES mom and the TRES PTA Treasurer. I'm writing you today to implore you to restore funding to maintain class sizes at current levels, and look to the future to add more teachers and begin reducing class sizes.

This November parents like me are going to vote for County Council seats as well as BOE seats. We will be watching, listening, and voting for the candidates that put our kids first.

When you receive a proposal, campaign funding, or advice from developers and businesses remember why Howard County is sought after - **it's the schools**. Families (tax payers) move to Howard County for the **schools**, not to develop land. Fund the schools, fund our infrastructure, prioritize residents over businesses, and keep our class sizes small.

- Victoria Budich

Sent from my iPad

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Alexis M. McKenzie <amlaske@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:14 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Funding Increase for HCPSS

Dear Council Members,

I would like to request funding be increased to HCPSS to avoid having to increase class sizes for the 2018-2019 school year. Increasing class sizes, particularly at the elementary level, is detrimental for early learners. Having observed in my son's classroom throughout the year we simply do not have enough hands on deck to handle all of the challenges. Children are falling through the cracks in one of the wealthiest counties in America. We can do better and we need to!

Thank You,  
Alexis McKenzie  
Elkridge Resident