



# Howard County Council

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Proposed Study to Evaluate HCPSS Mold Issues

*Ellicott City, MD (February 23, 2016)* – Howard County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball is taking action to address the significant concerns of parents and teachers around mold in Howard County classrooms. Dr. Ball will file legislation on Thursday that asks the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board to review the mold-related reports commissioned by HCPSS and make recommendations for action to the County Council and County Executive.

Since 2010, five schools in the Howard County Public School System had reports of mold, including some cases which caused students and staff to be hospitalized. Glenwood Middle, Mount View Middle, Pointers Run Elementary, Glenelg High and Centennial High all had reports of mold.

“After hearing complaints from many members of the community and concerns from the Governor at a recent Board of Public Works meeting, I felt that the Environmental Sustainability Board could take a closer look at the current mold studies and offer a helping hand in this matter,” said Dr. Ball. “Our schools should provide a healthy environment for students to learn and teachers to work, and that includes the proper indoor air quality.”

Although HCPSS formed an Indoor Environmental Quality Advisory Committee, which is comprised of parents, community members, Howard County Government Employees, PTA Council members and HCPSS leaders, this resolution would focus additional resources to ensure our schools have a clean bill of health. The Advisory Committee is scheduled to release its system-wide plan on Indoor Environmental Quality to the Board of Education this week.

Dr. Ball’s proposed legislation calls for the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board to submit a report by September 30, 2016, with an evaluation of the system-wide plan released by the HCPSS’ Indoor Environmental Quality Advisory Committee and any indoor environmental air studies commissioned by the School System. The report should address the methodology used to conduct school facility studies, the validity of the findings, the studies’ recommendations for mold remediation, and recommendations on addressing environmental concerns on mold at schools.

“We are happy to provide an independent review of the progress in assessing, remediating and preventing mold in Howard County Public School buildings,” said Ned Tillman, Chair of the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board. “We recognize this as an important issue and look forward to working with HCPSS in keeping our kids and staff safe and healthy.”

The proposed legislation will be introduced at the Council’s legislative session on March 7. Testimony will be accepted at the regularly scheduled public hearing on March 21. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov).

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