



Howard County Council

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1300/SB 1000 Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation

February 17, 2020

Dear Chairpersons McIntosh, Kaiser, Guzzone, and Pinsky, and Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

The Howard County Council thanks you for considering HB 1300/SB 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Howard County Council supports this legislation and the Maryland General Assembly's efforts to create a meaningful and successful vision for student achievement in the state of Maryland. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future presents our state with a monumental opportunity to improve public education in Maryland.

In Howard County, providing a world-class education is our top priority. Our county spends roughly 58% of our county budget on education to ensure that every child has the tools and resources they need for success. For the last seven fiscal years, Howard County has funded our public school system above the annual maintenance of effort requirement, recognizing the need for additional resources in our classrooms.

Even so, we recognize that statewide there are significant shortcomings in our public education system. This legislation addresses the need for full-day pre-K, additional school staff, well-deserved teacher raises, and career technical education to prepare our students for the workforce. This approach will help ensure that we are raising the bar and closing the gap for all our students.

Thank you for your hard work and diligence on this legislation. The Howard County Council strongly urges your support for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and respectfully requests a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Liz Walsh
Councilmember, District 1

Christiana Rigby
Councilmember, District 3

Opel Jones
Councilmember, District 2

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4