

Testimony in Support of HB 1300
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future
SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees
February 17, 2020, 12:00 PM

Submitted by Terrence Cavanagh, Executive Director

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

On behalf of Service Employees International Union, Maryland and DC State Council, I am pleased to offer our organization's **support** for **HB 1300, *The Blueprint for Maryland's Future***.

With over two million members, the Service Employees International Union is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in the key service sectors to improve our lives and the services we provide. In Maryland and DC, the seven SEIU locals that make up our State Council represent over 45,000 Health Care, Property Service, and Public Service Workers.

SEIU represents thousands of workers in our schools. Many more thousands send their children to school seeking an opportunity, a change to fulfill their American Dream. And all of our members pay taxes to support those schools in order to make them the foundation of our communities.

In order for the next generation of Marylanders to compete globally, our schools need to be among the best in the world. The economic dominance of America is not a given for the future. We need to measure ourselves against the Germans, the Danes and the Japanese and take fewer bows for being rated above Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas.

As someone once said, "We've seen the future, and it's expensive." Paying for a world class educational opportunity for all Marylanders will not come cheap. However, in Maryland, we are incredibly lucky. We can raise the needed money for those businesses and individuals who can most afford it, but not have tax policies that are so onerous on anyone.

Is equal opportunity a hollow slogan? We can make it a reality, but only if we have the ability to act wisely, boldly and courageously.

SEIU urges a **favorable** report of **HB 1300**.

Thank you.