



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB0920 -  
Before the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
on February 18, 2020**

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:**

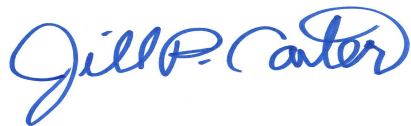
**Walter P. Carter, my father, was a World War II veteran, a member of the Greatest Generation, and a giant in the history of Maryland's civil rights movement. For decades, he registered voters, organized marches, fought segregation, and labored tremendously to make our country a better place until his last day. As a result of his efforts, Mr. Carter's name was memorialized on a number of buildings in Baltimore City as a reminder to its residents and others of his story, of this civic history.**

**Since 2003, approximately two dozen Baltimore City Public Schools bearing the name of great African Americans have closed, and the names on them have not resurfaced on city schools since. For example, schools named after William C. March, Dr. Lillie M. Jackson, Elmer A. Henderson, Doris M. Johnson, and Dr. Samuel L. Banks are no longer named threads in the fabric of Baltimore City's landscape. Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall and Harriet Tubman have their names etched in history and our collective hearts, but no longer on the pediments of Baltimore City Public Schools.**

**This is regrettable because when we make changes to our social landscape and, therefore, our civic narrative without due care and sober reflection, we risk erasing history that propels us forward and together instead of backward and apart. Our decisions about these symbols will be felt for generations to come. The legacy of Walter P. Carter merits a permanent place in the tapestry of Baltimore's history, which is currently at risk.**

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB0920 from this committee.**

**Very Truly Yours,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

**Jill P. Carter**