



COMMISSIONERS  
JOSEPH M. MITRECIC, PRESIDENT  
THEODORE J. ELDER, VICE PRESIDENT  
ANTHONY W. BERTINO, JR.  
MADISON J. BUNTING, JR.  
JAMES C. CHURCH  
JOSHUA C. NORDSTROM  
DIANA PURNELL

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HAROLD L. HIGGINS, CPA  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
ROSCOE R. LESLIE  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

## Worcester County

GOVERNMENT CENTER  
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103

SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

21863-1195

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Room 121 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1912

The Honorable Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee  
Room 131 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1912

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Room 2, West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1911

RE: Opposition to HB 1300/SB 1000 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation

Dear Delegates McIntosh and Kaiser:

On behalf of the Worcester County Commissioners, I would like to express our strong opposition to the funding formula proposed in HB 1300/SB 1000 Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation. While we applaud the academic recommendations of the Kirwan Commission for Maryland Public Schools to assure Maryland's education system is among the highest-performing systems in the world, we have tremendous concerns about the funding formulas used within HB 1300/SB 1000 to achieve this goal. Specifically, we oppose the mandated increased local spending, as Worcester County is already investing more per student than any other district in Maryland.

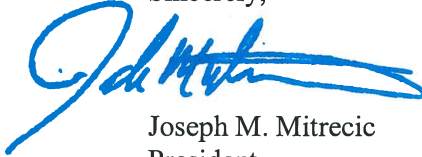
The Worcester County public school system is a model education system, recognized throughout the state and nation for excellence. Both the Worcester County Commissioners and Worcester County Board of Education have demonstrated time and time again that we know how best to allocate vital resources to support teachers and support staff, foster educational achievement among our students, and make the necessary investments to ensure school facilities are maintained properly so that teachers can teach and students can learn in safe, clean and functional environments.

We have concerns regarding how required increases in education funding could impact Worcester County Government and taxpayers during slow economic times should the state be unable to fulfill its financial commitment to education funding. Furthermore, the bill denies counties the flexibility to meet the Kirwan objectives in ways that make sense to local need and circumstance. For more than 150 years,

education has been a priority in Worcester County, ensuring an exceptional education experience for each of our students.

In closing, we ask you to join us in opposing HB 1300/SB 1000 on the grounds that one size does not fit all and that funding demands of the county are inconsistent with fairness and do not account for demographic disparity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Mitrecic", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph M. Mitrecic  
President

CC: Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
Delegate Wayne Hartman  
Delegate Charles Otto  
MACo