



February 17, 2020

**House Bill 1300 / Senate Bill 1000**

**Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation**

**Appropriations, Ways and Means, Budget and Taxation, Education, Health and  
Environmental Committees**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Nothing is more important than providing a quality education to our students. Education is the most critical investment we make in our future. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) worked for more than three years to recommend how our state can provide our students the best public education in the world. The recommendations of the commission, which form the foundation of HB1300/SB1000 are wide-ranging, well-researched, thoughtful, and impactful. And, I believe they are achievable.

The analysis I have seen on the funding mandate suggest that Anne Arundel County will be required to increase our share of public education funding by \$261 million over the next 10 years, or \$26 million annually. Anne Arundel County is prepared to meet this challenge. Funding a strong education system will create a huge return on our investment.

Teaching is among the most important and valuable professions we have. Teacher salaries should reflect that. And paying our teachers a fair salary isn't enough. We must also give them the tools they need to succeed. Expanding pre-kindergarten, providing extra support for community schools and special education students, and establishing career training programs for high school students are essential to ensure that every Maryland student has the opportunity to succeed.

If we achieve our goal of building a world-class education system in Maryland, I believe it will be the most efficient economic development driver we could build. Good schools are good business. An outstanding education system will increase our tax base, reduce the need for social safety net programs, and give Maryland a competitive advantage in our region and in the global economy.

Today, we are at a pivot point. The legislation before your committees is absolutely critical to our future. The Commission has done its work and now we must turn to the bold task of implementation. Let us invest in our future. President John F. Kennedy, speaking of the race to

the moon, famously inspired the nation by choosing to pursue the difficult tasks to achieve that goal "not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win." Let us be proud that, many years down the road, we as Marylanders can reflect and say "we did the hard things."

**I urge a FAVORABLE report on HB 1300 / SB 1000.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steuart Pittman", written in a cursive style.

Steuart Pittman  
County Executive