

February 13, 2020

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Appropriations Committee
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Chairpersons:

I want to express my strong support for House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. I believe it is essential that Maryland take action on this without delay. The Commission's recommendations call for an important investment in education which, in the long run, will have a huge payback to the citizens of this state.

I am a partner of Brightview Senior Living. We employ approximately 4,500 associates, many of whom are front line caregivers in our communities. We are a labor intensive service organization. We depend heavily on our ability to hire well educated associates, people who are literate and well equipped in both reading and math. The Kirwan Commission recommendations offer us real hope for the future.

Our state's education system is clearly in trouble. If the recommendations are adopted without compromise, opportunities for students going through our public education system will be greatly enhanced. These recommendations link early childhood education, outstanding teachers and high standards for students in every school district within the state. This is an investment we must make.

I cannot urge strongly enough that your Committees issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Sincerely,



Arnold I. Richman
Chairman