



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

## Support

SB1000 – The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future - Implementation

Senate Committees: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; Budget and Taxation

February 17, 2020

Written testimony presented by the Rev. Dr. Diane Fadely,  
representing the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland strongly supports SB1000 – The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

We applaud the breadth and depth of the proposed legislation. This is a prime opportunity for Maryland to fund high quality educational programs for all children attending Maryland public schools. SB1000 is commended for the following target areas: a) high quality pre-K programs for three and four-year-olds with wraparound services as needed; b) increased teacher diversity, preparation and compensation; c) additional resources and supports for children who need them to make meaningful educational progress; d) rigorous curricula from pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade with emphasis on college and career readiness; and f) a thorough accountability component. These and other Blueprint features are designed to build a solid educational foundation for the children and youth of Maryland.

In summary, the contents of SB1000 are designed to significantly improve the overall academic achievement of all Maryland students and make them academically competitive with students in countries with the highest levels of educational achievement.

Communicants of The Episcopal Church are mandated by the teachings of our Baptismal Covenant: to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. [The Book of Common Prayer (1979) p. 305] The content of The Blueprint reflects our faith tradition’s commitment to ensuring dignity, equality of opportunity, justice, racial reconciliation and healing for all people including children and youth regardless of their socio-economic status, race, religion (or none), national origin, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other factor.

We are confident that as legislators, you are committed to providing excellent education for students regardless of their socio-economic status, race, religion (or none), nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other factor.

We respectfully request a favorable report for SB1000.