

SUPPORT SB1000



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Shared Voices for Liberal Religious Values in Maryland

February 17, 2020

Judicial proceedings Committee

Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-chair Waldstreicker, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Council

I am Karen Clark speaking on behalf of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry - MD (UULM) who urges you to support SB1000 /HB1300, which create a public educational system that incorporates our faith values; the use of compassion, equity and justice in its establishment. Personally I have taught in Anne Arundel County elementary and middle schools for over a dozen years where my own two children were educated and I, like others, strongly urge that these changes be available to all students.

Recently several members of my UU church read a brief history about our country's Racial Divide, "White Rage" by Carol Anderson. I want to share a small section about the impact of the failure of our government through white rage, to equitably integrate our schools in the Brown vs Board of Education Supreme Court case (1954) required.

Congressman Elliott had just predicted that whatever happened in America's classrooms in the 1950's would determine what the US would be like a half a century later. Fifty years later, in 2004, "not a single African Am. earned a Ph.D in astronomy or astrophysics. In the 43 various fields of 2100 Ph.D.s earned in natural sciences, NONE went to African Americans The refusal to implement

Brown through out the South , even in the face of Sputnik (which was a race between the US and Russians to launch the first space satellite)– not only as the law or as simple humanity might have dictated, but also as demanded by national interest and patriotism – , Am. strength was undermined and compromised by failure to equitably implement Brown.”

Now, in the twenty-first century the sector of the US economy that accounts for more than 50% of our sustained economic expansion, science and engineering, is relying on an ever- dwindling skilled and educated work force. Where as at one point - about 40% of the world’s scientists and engineers resided in the US, according to Rodney C. Adkins, senior vice-president of IBM, that number shrunk to about 15% by 2012.

The 1950”s, then, should be seen as a fateful moment in America, when history failed to turn and alter the trajectory of the nation. Brown held out hope to millions desperately seeking a quality education.” Pg.94-95

A well known quote says – “ **Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.** This is a case where money ISN’T the issue - We can not AFFORD to NOT pass this bill. Here is our opportunity. Our country, childrens’ and future lives depend on it. Thank you for all your hard work and service.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry
asks you for a favorable vote.