Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees
February 17ᵗʰ, 2020

I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high performing systems around the world.

My name is Marguerite Wakeman and I am a mother of two, the oldest of which is a kindergarten student in Baltimore City. I have a Masters in Healthcare Administration, and I work at a local hospital in the city. I moved to Maryland from another state and while my husband and I want to raise our family here where we met and have started our careers, we've had serious concerns about the lack of resources available to students in the city, and whether the education our children will receive will prepare them adequately for college and careers.

We strongly believe that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is a necessary step towards closing the gap between Maryland's public schools and those across the country. Without this legislation, Maryland's children will slip further behind their peers, and will be unprepared to contribute to Maryland's future.

Core skills such as reading and computer literacy are nonnegotiable in today's economy- there should not be a single child who coasts through a publically funded school only to hit the adult market without these skills. An "adequate" education should be the bare minimum goal of an industrialized nation, and yet Maryland's children are not receiving even that.

Fully funding Maryland's schools is an investment in the resources that will drive our state in the future. When you and I are ready to sit down and rest, my daughters and their peers should be prepared to step up and take our places. I urge the committees to ensure that they receive the education to do so and issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Marguerite Wakeman, District 45