



# STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND

800 N. CHARLES ST. • SUITE 400 • BALTIMORE, MD • 21201

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Monday, February 17th, 2020

Since the introduction of HB1300/SB1000 in the General Assembly, **hundreds of people have reached out to share their individual reasons** for why this legislation matters in their lives.

Each and every person may have different motivations but are united by the desire to see The Blueprint for Maryland's Future implemented and fully funded. Many of these stories are very personal and represent the stakes of this debate. **Strong public schools should work for every person and many of us can attribute our success to a great education.**

It is our duty and obligation to ensure that future generations have every opportunity to be successful and live a life of their own design. **The Blueprint for Maryland's Future provides that opportunity.**

The following testimony has voices from every district in the state and reflects Maryland's wealth of diversity. You will hear from **voices** of every background represented.

We were moved by the desire and eagerness to share personal stories of why this legislation matters to each individual, family, and community. We hope you will take the time to read and internalize these stories shared by your fellow Marylanders.

Joe Francaviglia

Executive Director | Strong Schools Maryland



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees**

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am writing to you today as a parent of a PGCPs first grader, because I think it is really important that you publicly support fully funding our schools and I ask that you use your voice to help invest ordinary citizens in the important discussion happening at the state and county level. This is the time for leaders like you to find solutions to big problems and ensure that all of our students have the world-class education they deserve.

My daughter attends Hyattsville Elementary. She is thriving-- learning and growing academically and socially. But it is clear that not every child is (some children are clearly not getting the support they need for their talents and their needs). It is clear the teachers need more support and incentives. It is clear that further innovation and investment is needed to prepare our children for the challenges of the future (investment in technology and responsible use of technology, curriculum around climate change). It is clear that the physical space of her school and many of our neighborhood schools are in embarrassingly poor shape. I believe in public education. I believe it is the best investment we can make in our society. And yet, we are neglecting this investment.

I know you are well versed in the dire statistics that are confronting our public school system and I know you are aware that Prince George's County Public Schools are some of the most historically underfunded public schools in the state. Fully funding our schools is the most important thing we can do, not only for our students and families, but for our economy as well. If we want to build a 21st century economy in the county and the state, we must invest in our schools first.

I close by asking you to lead on this issue. We cannot run from this fight, we must embrace the challenge and work with other leaders to ensure that we can create a thriving Prince George's County and state of Maryland. That all starts with a fully funded school system.

Kristen Wares



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have two grandsons who attend Roland Park public school in Baltimore City. I also go to tutor every week with Reading Partners at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy.

From what I observe it is clear that early childhood educational opportunities will improve our children's academic progress. I want our high school students to be much better prepared to earn a living or to enter college.

I support all of the Kirwan Commission recommendations as contained in SB1000 and HB1300.

Megan Shook  
4100 N Charles St.



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I'm a parent of a child in a public school in Maryland, and have been for years. I am a public health advocate.

This legislation will benefit countless thousands of children today and in the future. These young Marylanders will benefit from years of better educational outcomes and health outcomes. The students will have improved economic productivity as adults - contributing to Maryland's economy in the future -- if WE act TODAY to fully fund Maryland's schools. Let's show support for ALL kids in our great state with Fully Funded Schools.

Eva Bazant  
Baltimore, MD 21224



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I am a mother of a daughter who will benefit deeply from the Statewide Pre-K program and a 4th grade Social Studies/Science in Baltimore City.

I support this legislation because every time I walk into the halls of my school building, my classroom, I see students who deserve more resources and teachers and administrators who deserve more support, training, and better salaries. I often wonder why I haven't left the classroom and it's because I get a sense of purpose when I stand in front of my students and see them excited about learning. They deserve to do that with every resource at their fingertips. They shouldn't be subject to budget cuts, lacking emotional and social support, and burnt out teachers. My students deserve more. Our community deserves more. Maryland's future deserves more.

Deborah Euzebio  
14200 Westside Blvd, Laurel, MD 20707



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I am a current senior at Bard High School Early College Baltimore and I have attended a Baltimore City Public School for the last 3 years of school. Up until 10th grade I had attended private schools all of my life and only heard about how much public schools lacked. I did not understand how bad it was until I was enrolled in the school myself and experiencing this firsthand. Some of my classes didn't have enough laptops when assigned research or typing papers and some classes didn't even have enough textbooks for each student in the class. The majority African American school was full of majority white, male teachers who I cannot relate to.

I support this policy because it would bring back all of the money Baltimore City is currently being underfunded. They would also provide students of color with diverse teachers to allow for better student/teacher relationships. As a black female student, from past experience I can confidently state, nothing is more empowering than having a black woman, a person I can look to as an example of my future, as the teacher. Also, the fact that many of their approaches remind me of my mother and I's bond bringing so much more comfort and trust in the classroom.

Andrea Hlongwane  
3909 Rosecrest Ave



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I'm a lawyer and parent of three public school children (plus two more not yet in public school). I have a Masters Degree in Education and taught fourth grade for two years.

I was once a teacher and made very little money doing very important work, and now make a lot more money doing work that's less important than educating our children. I'm embarrassed that we pay teachers so little for the incredibly important work they do. I absolutely support this effort to pay our teachers something more commensurate with the value they provide our society.

Jared Marx  
4231 Madison St. • 20781



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I am the co-founder and current Executive Director of Identity which was established in 1998 to create opportunities for Latino youth to reach their highest potential. Today, we assist 3500 Latino and other historically underserved students and opportunity youth living in high-poverty areas of Montgomery County, MD who are most at risk for poor social-emotional, academic and work-life outcomes. Identity supports their successful transition into adulthood at school, in the community, and on playing fields with bilingual and trauma-informed programs that strengthen social-emotional wellbeing, and support academic success and job readiness. Here in Montgomery County, Black and Brown students suffer the poorest educational, social emotional and workforce outcomes. They start school behind their peers and have the lowest rates of graduation.

Identity strongly supports House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which has the potential to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high performing systems around the world. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

Diego Uriburu  
414 E. Diamond Ave, Gaithersburg, MD • 20877





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Padre de familia

Porque es importante que los niños tengan acceso a la educación desde sus primeros años de vida. Porque necesitamos que los maestros estén calificados para mejorar la educación de nuestros hijos; Porque es importante que los estudiantes tengan acceso permanente a tratamientos de salud mental; Porque hay muchas escuelas que necesitan ser renovadas, etc.

Yoicy Quintero  
Gunners Terrace • 20876



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I am a director of a non-profit that works with at-risk children and youth

Underfunding of public education is devastating this state and the country and destroying our democracy. Our future well-being will depend upon the youth of today. We need to invest in our children and youth and ensure that ALL children, no matter what their socio-economic or racial background is, have opportunities to reach their full potential.

Michele Bulatovic  
Kensington, MD • 20895



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I was a public school teacher in English, theater, exploring careers, contemporary communications, and TV Production for over 40 years prior to retiring in 2017. I first taught for four years in Baltimore City Public Schools in the 1970's and the rest of my career was in Montgomery County. I have taught all grades from 6th through 12th.

My at risk seniors and even my honors sophomores would have benefited from HB1300 and SB 1000 in career and college readiness. In addition, those I taught in junior high and middle school earlier in my career have had more success in their careers than my more recent students.

Recently, I have encountered former students in my daily routines, some prospering and others not. I have met one honors student who went to college as a manager of a grocery store, while another similar honors student did not attend college and is already an assistant manager at another grocery store. Another honors student dropped out of community college and sells parts at an auto dealership. Some risk seniors are now working as sales clerks at Target or K Mart. I am glad they have jobs, and yet wish that they could more fully express their potential as adults. On the other hand, another at risk student I encountered told me that he is currently flipping townhouses in Baltimore City. He is successful and happy as he works hard to create affordable housing for others. Students from earlier in my teaching career have achieved more rewarding careers. One of my on level English students is now a very fine English teacher in MCPS. One I taught in the 70's is a Physicians Assistant and teaches nursing. Two former honors students are arts administrators. A former actor is now a speech language pathologist. Two at risk seniors from the times of the Thornton Commission went to trade schools right after high school. One runs a successful motorcycle shop, while the other is a successful dog trainer. Neither spent more than six months preparing for their success. While all these former students have been adults for longer periods of time and had the benefit of more work experience, they all started from a stronger position entering the job market, due to the better quality of their education, including more college and career readiness education embedded within many of their high school (and even middle school) classes.

The contrast is sharp and clear between those who had multiple opportunities from 6th through 12th grades to look at the world of work and make choices to those who were pushed through by overworked and understaffed guidance counselors and teachers. Additionally, current curricula does not embed preparation for the adult world by looking at such practical aspects of work as interviewing and creating resumes/cover letters because curricula is more academic and geared toward success on the SAT's or ACT. One size does not fit all! The Blueprint directly addresses preparing students for a fulfilling life as adult workers, whether they attend college or enter the job market as skilled laborers or trades persons. Let's create a "Pipeline to Prosperity" instead of a "Pipeline to Prison" in Maryland Schools. Not only will our next generation and generations to come become more prosperous, but also the whole of Maryland will benefit from a workforce prepared for the 21st century world of work.

Christine Kraus  
5133 Clavel Terrace • 20853



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I am the parent of a current PGPCS kindergartener with 2 more who will enter the public school system.

My children, but also the thousands of other children of the state, stand to benefit from this legislation. Throughout the country, public school systems are failing to support and educate our children and help them grow into the future workers and leaders we will need to sustain us. The passage of this legislation gives Marylanders, Prince Georgians, the opportunity to break free of that failure and provide the well-rounded, compassionate, supportive, education system that we desperately need. We need more than a band aid and patchwork, we need a long term solution that will raise our children up, support their education and allow them to break free of the systemic failures seen nationwide and right here in Maryland. This legislation has the possibility of being that solution as long as we fight to support its passage.

Meaghan Tuttle  
915 Park Terrace • 20744



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I'm a second generation Chinese American woman who lived with three different families before my mom adopted me around age 5. My life could have turned out so differently. I see where I am now and it's nothing short of a miracle. My mom moved to Montgomery County for the quality of education it promised. She wrote to Congresswoman Connie Morella to fight Potomac Elementary School's rejection of me (I lived in Wheaton) so I could learn Chinese and then drove that hour and a half drive twice a day for the next 6 years. She researched and found the magnet program at Eastern Middle School and made sure I applied. By the time I was in high school, I wanted more than anything to go to a neighborhood school so I could have friends close by. She understood and let me. I then went on to go to Grinnell College with a full-ride (because my mom suggested I apply to the Posse Foundation's scholarship) and I just completed my masters in social work last year. Looking back, I see the labor of love my mom put into my education because she understood just how many doors would open. I also see the privilege both my mom and I hold. What about all of the children--because of structural racism and intentional disinvestment in their communities--who do not have someone advocating for them? I'm grateful for my education in Montgomery County but I know there are extreme inequities within the county. As well as across the state. It breaks my heart and, as the wealthiest state in the nation, this inequity does not need to be a reality.

I support this legislation because it embodies the understanding that every child in Maryland deserves a world-class education. Investing in early childhood education, high-quality teachers and leaders, college and career readiness pathways, and equitable resources across the state creates the structural supports we need to provide safe and spirit-affirming environments for all of Maryland's children. This legislation provides a visionary framework that has the potential to transform how our education system operates. This legislation must be fully funded and areas such as Baltimore City and Somerset County need to have additional support.

Joyce Bartlett  
401 Scott Drive • 20904



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I am in my 27th year as an elementary school teacher in Howard County, the parent of two public school alums, and a grandparent of one (so far).

I support this legislation in its entirety because it is our best chance of providing the quality education that EVERY student across our state needs and deserves. Public education is the basis of our democracy and the most critical service our state can provide. I want to assure my grandchild, and every other child, have the opportunity to meet their greatest potential and guarantee prosperity for our state.

Marijane Monck  
11064 Berrypick Lane • 21044



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I am the parent of two future Baltimore City public school students.

My own children are the beneficiaries of structural privilege that mitigate some of the negative consequences of the chronic under-investment in Maryland's public school system. But their current and future peers, most of whom are people of color and come from environments with high concentrations of poverty, stand to benefit substantially from the improved equity funding formula, the increased opportunity for high-quality college-preparedness and vocational education, and the improved retention of fantastic teachers that the Kirwan Commission recommendations ensure. I know many of these kids personally because they are friends with my kids, so fully funding is not an abstraction for me: it's personal and moral. I implore you to do right by my sons and my sons' friends and fully fund Kirwan.

Jordon Steele  
2603 N Calvert St • 21218



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I am a registered nurse, mother of two daughters, grandmother of 6. I believe that pre K - highschool education, along with housing and health care, is a RIGHT.

Maryland's economic future depends upon the passage of Kirwan recommendations because currently the education system in Maryland is failing a majority of students.

Susan Talbott  
3908 North Charles Street • 21218





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I'm the father of a freshman in high school, the last of three children to go through the Maryland school system (Baltimore County - Catonsville), and I work and teach at the University of Maryland

Because I work in higher education and teach (and grade), I can attest to the necessity of excellent schools as necessary to building a solid foundation from which young people can spring up and attain their full potential. I have seen some amazing young people in my time, and I have helped others overcome gaps in their foundational education to become as amazing as they can be. Without good schools, we are sunk, to put it simply.

Henry Gregory  
6606 Kilmarnoch Drive, Catonsville, MD • 21228



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I'm a Baltimore City Public School graduate and I'm currently taking classes at BCCC

My younger brother and cousin will benefit from the new education that this legislation provides. It includes programming and services that would have greatly benefited me.

Sharena Lawson  
5106 Goodnow Rd • 21206



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I have been a public school teacher in Baltimore City for seven years.

The students of Baltimore City deserve the absolute best that the state can give them. They are bright, talented, and motivated children, and I don't want to see them fall short because of lack of resources.

Brooke Petruzzelli  
2601 N. Howard St. Baltimore, MD 21218 • 21218



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I'm a Baltimore City Public School Special Education Teacher.

Students with disabilities require the additional funding supported by this legislation to ensure their various needs are met and to enable students to access resources that contribute to their academic and social/emotional growth.

Alexis Bartholomew  
3610 Dillon St. • 21224



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Soy padre de familia

Porque nuestros estudiantes tienen derecho a tener la misma preparación y capacitación de otras escuelas de más alto nivel

Karina velazquez  
19515 frederick • 20876



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I am a Cuban-American parent of three boys in 7th grade, 4th grade and Kindergarten.

I support this legislation because it will help reduce the achievement gap in our school district. I believe it will provide early childhood opportunities for kids that need it. I believe it's important to have experienced and qualified teachers at EVERY school not just the schools that are lucky enough to have them.

Melissa Vigues  
22110 fulmer avenue • 20871



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Soy madre de familia

Las escuelas deben ser renovadas. Que los principales y professors sean calificados. Que los niños tengan access a educacion pre kindergarten gratis. Que hayan programs gratis despues de la escuela.

Yadira Albines  
Filbert Drive • 20879



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I'm a parent of 2 children, ages 3 and 7. My 7-year old son is a 2nd grader at a Baltimore City school. We are committed to sending our children to public schools, as we believe it's a key part of raising them to be a part of their community and learning civic responsibility.

In our neighborhood school in Baltimore City, we see the challenges that teachers and administration face in funding a first rate education. While we firmly believe our son and his classmates are getting an excellent education, it's often due to the heroic efforts of teachers and administrators that care about them more than the level of resources at their disposal. I believe a higher and more appropriate level of funding would help him and his classmates truly thrive. A good example of this is funding for art, foreign language and STEAM education. These classes are provided to the school through a vendor as opposed to staff for cost reasons, and as such the quality varies greatly throughout the year. We would like our children to have these resources provided on a more consistent basis through higher staffing levels throughout the school system, so that all children in the city may benefit.

Michael Gittings  
1825 Fairbank Road • 21209





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I'm a mother of two kids: a 10 year old who will be in 6th grade next school year and a 2 year old who is in the Infants and Toddlers Special Needs program and next year will in the K-3 program.

I strongly support The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) it is very important and necessary not only for the future of my kids but for thousands of others students whom will benefit from the resources necessary provided to ensure every child in the state of Maryland to receive a great education. The Blueprint is more equitable and accountable for students achievement and will drastically change the future of struggling learners and special needs students like my toddler. Our current school system deserves a better pathway on a successful education for a better future of the students.

LILLIAN GARCIA  
9403 Hughes Ct • 20783



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I am a psychiatrist who treats adolescents and young adults with serious mental illness.

My patients greatly benefit from school, and the associated services that enable them to obtain an appropriate education. This legislation would be a great step forward in enabling them to succeed.

Russell Margolis  
5001 Springlake Way • 21212



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I am a parent of two children attending Baltimore County public schools

I support this legislation because I believe that improved teacher salaries will reduce staff turnover at my children's school, and that pre-K education is a major benefit to helping students be ready to learn

Fergal Mullally  
7113 Oxford Rd, • 21212



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I am an 8th year English teacher at the great, historic Frederick Douglass High School.

My beloved students, who are already deeply underserved, will benefit greatly from the right-sized funding that Kirwan will offer.

Lee Krempel  
902 E. 36th Street • 21218



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Soy un padre de familia

Educación a temprana edad, maestros calificados

Roxana Sotomayor  
18233 Swiss Circle • 20874



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I was a high school teacher for 20 years in Anne Arundel County.

The marked decline in reading skills that has been demonstrated can be remedied by adding in sensory exploration, language, song, dance, movement, music, art and stories to the pre-K and Kindergarten curriculum before children are expected to read.

Charlotte Brooks  
Idlewilde Ave. • 21228



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent, former parent and former AACounty School Board member from Anne Arundel County.

Our founders guaranteed education to all. What we currently offer does not guarantee appropriate or equitable education to all. Kirwan does.

Jane Andrew  
132 St. Andrews Road • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Retired from Baltimore County Schools in 2011 where I worked as a Library Media Specialist

I worked at Western School of Technology and saw first hand the benefits of a Career & Tech Curriculum. A College Prep program is not for every student, because many of our kids won't attend college.

Ann Tanner  
Valley View Ave. • 21228





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a life long educator, first as a special educator in Prince George's County and later on faculty at George Washington University.

In my retirement, I volunteer often in the Baltimore City Public Schools and witness firsthand the extent of need the students exhibit. Students living in extreme poverty need more resources at school in order to break out of the cycle of failure. They also need excellent teachers and innovative leadership to organize the school to best meet the needs of all the students and to get the parents involved in their child's education. I support FULL funding of the Kirwan Commission as a positive action to changing the trajectory of many of Maryland's youth.

Penelope Wald  
717 President St. #601, Baltimore, MD • 21202



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a fourth-year special education teacher in Baltimore City Schools.

The current funding that our schools have isn't enough to give every student a real shot at success. We need to fully fund and implement the Kirwan Commission's recommendations now.

Allison Weigel  
Kelfield Dr, Halethorpe, MD • 21227



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a grandparent of two children who will begin public school in two years

Their parents are thinking about sending them to private school. Passing and implementing Kirwan will overwhelmingly drive the choice to public schools because they will receive a better education and save the family thousands of dollars.

William Henderson  
62 Dungarrie Road • 21228



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a kindergartner and 5th grader. I'm also a school social worker.

Maryland's economy will benefit from the profits and growth that would occur as a result of expanded opportunities in vocational and technical training and universal Pre-K. In addition, as a school social worker in Baltimore City, I see every day how students who live in areas of concentrated poverty arrive at school with additional needs. Schools in these areas require additional resources in order to appropriately support and educate these students. When schools have additional resources, they will be able to better prepare students for work and for higher education, which will benefit our state in the long-term. This investment in one of our most important resources (our children) will pay off.

Jen McCann  
5206 Catalpha Rd • 21214



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired pediatrician and current school reading tutor (volunteer)

After years of having no adjustment for inflation, the school budget allotment has fallen way behind. Our community public elementary-middle school currently has overcrowded classrooms and lack of appropriate space for pre-K students. Please support the Kirwan Commission's recommendations so our students will get an appropriate education. I would hate to see Governor Hogan's legacy be remembered for his opposition to finding additional funding for this endeavor.

depue duffey  
1226 Hull St • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm an ex-high school teacher and soon-to-be grandmother who now works with minority parents of school-age children. I hear EVERYTHING about the kids' schools and how much they need and aren't yet getting.

This Kirwan legislation - supporting bill is aimed at the right ages and places to make a significant difference!! Please don't let this opportunity slip by to improve my granddaughter's future.

Marjorie Centofanti  
Hollyberry Rd. • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a father of 3, grandfather of 4, and from a middle-class family of 5 who owe a great deal to our public educations.

My public education prepared me well for the world that I entered as a young adult. I worry that this generation and future generations of American children will not be as well positioned for successful, happy lives. We owe them the same (or better!) chance. Passing this legislation will begin to fulfill our duty to them.

David Cole  
15 Hamill Rd. Apt C. Baltimore, MD • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a resident of Baltimore City, I volunteer as a tutor in the program at Brown Memorial Church—and my daughter has worked as a school counselor in an underserved PG County elementary school.

It has been heart-breaking to learn first and second-hand of the challenges that children from our poorest communities face. The kids I have worked with not only struggle to read and write (none of my students hold her pencils properly!); they struggle with regulating their emotions. How can they concentrate on learning when they do not have the tools to cope? And neither do their teachers. My daughter was the one counselor for 900 kids (and their educators!) in a Latinx community. The Kirwan recommendations would guarantee wrap-around services for my kids in Baltimore City and those children in PG county—offering educators the kind of skills to cope with social-emotional-developmental issues in the classroom that regularly detract from learning; the school as a community resource for parents who need a variety of services to help them provide a healthy and supportive environment at home; a new optimism for the educational system and our broader society that understands the long-term impact of a revitalized school system: a robust and healthy state-wide educational system in which every student reaches her potential to be a contributing citizen.

Ellen Kahan Zager  
Bank Street, Baltimore City • 21202





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the parent of two children who attended Baltimore City public schools.

My children were among the relatively few in the City school system who benefitted from an excellent education, based largely on where they live - and their ability to be accepted into one of the top performing high schools. It is just plain wrong that so many others, on whom the future of our city and state depends, are not given the same opportunities for a decent education, the cornerstone of a successful life. It is impossible to overstate the benefits that will come to our state from passing the full program the Kirwan Commission legislation calls for, and equally daunting to imagine the future we face if we fail to do so.

I know you have long supported public education in Maryland. Please do whatever you can to persuade your colleagues to make this historic opportunity a reality for our children. Thank you so much for your time and attention.

David Conn  
2222 Crest Rd • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a resident of Baltimore City, living in a school district where only 8% of elementary and middle school students have achieved proficiency in Math as well as in Reading/Language Arts. This statistic breaks my heart.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure that every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again. Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

Belinda Jane Hall  
2808 N. Calvert Street • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two public school teenagers

Classes are too big and teachers are exhausted

Michelle Koul  
312 Bowline Ct • 21146



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a born and raised Baltimorean who has been engaged in real estate development in Maryland for forty five years.

I believe strongly that public education is the most important economic development tool the state has. It is here where those graduating fully prepared for the workforce and or post secondary education will have the greatest impact for themselves and the state. It has been demonstrated that the return on investment is significant both personally and for the local jurisdictions and state.

Donald Manekin  
229 Ashland Road • 21030



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the grandparent of a grandson and granddaughter who graduated from Howard County Schools and a 6-year old grandson who is in the first grade in Prince George's County. My background is in education: teaching at the high school level and administration at the university level. I understand the value of a good education for all children and for our country. Without a well-educated population, democracy cannot work.

I am appalled at the difference in the PG and Howard school systems. My youngest grandson is allowed to spend much of his day watching videos that are apparently for entertainment only. When I visited his classes for Grandparents' Day, the teacher had no control over the classroom; students kept wandering at random even though they were told to take seats. Recently, when I asked him how his school day had been, he replied that it was "Terrible." He said that two boys had gotten into a fight twice during the day.

He is a bright child and deserves to have the chance to learn as much as he can absorb in order to prepare him for the type of college and career he will want.

Not too long ago, Maryland was considered to have some of the best schools in the nation. It's time to see that that is our status again--for the sake of all of our children. There is no better way to invest our financial resources.

Margery Knight  
Snow Goose Lane • 21409



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class pre-k-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two young children; the oldest is in an amazing pre-k program in a Baltimore City public school. Her growth this year has been astounding. I am also a former public high school teacher and have 14 years of experience working in public schools in three states (CA, WA and MD).

I support this legislation because ALL STUDENTS deserve an equitable and appropriate education, and right now too many students are left behind because of our inadequate funding formulas. Too many schools and school systems are routinely forced to make "choiceless choices." The public school my daughter attends has a fantastic pre-k program, and I'm glad our city's schools has invested heavily in early education. That investment will pay our state back many times over. However, that present cost is not covered by the state and presently our elementary school has to make choices every year between having smaller (vs huge) class sizes and being able to offer the following: art, music, a reading specialist, language, a librarian, after school sports, technology, after school programming, and other student activities. Every year the staff and parents at our school get to weigh in to "choose" which half of these important offerings will not be offered because of the structural lack of funding. And we have it better than most other elementary schools in our district! (We live in an affluent part of town which means we have a robust PTO that fundraises, grant-writes, and gathers a lot of parent volunteers for many programs). Our PTO makes a difference, but it is not enough and will never be enough to fill in all the needs. Our school isn't asking for the moon. Furthermore, I believe ALL schools should be able to offer their students personalized instruction AND art, music, language, a library, technology, sports, etc.

Professionally, I've never worked in more decrepit schools than in Maryland. I've worked with bright motivated high school students in Baltimore City learning in dire circumstances. On my first day in one of the high schools, the breeze blew a window out of its frame which fell down on my head. Only upon picking it up did I realize how many of the classroom's windows were "secured" with duct tape and packaging tape. This is one of many personal examples I have. Our schools are old and need serious infrastructural improvements. Please fund them.

Worse than the physical needs of our schools in Maryland are that many of our high schools cannot afford to provide their students with the college prep classes they need. One example: I had a brilliant sophomore student who wanted to be a neurosurgeon when she grew up. Her school counselor, teachers and parents knew this, but she was assigned neither a math nor science class because the budget cuts that year translated to less classes offered than were needed (among other cuts). That alone kept her from getting into a 4 year college. Another bright student leader I worked with was scheduled "out" of continuing Spanish language classes her junior and senior year because her school needed her to tutor peers who had fallen behind in credits (and the school could not hire an actual teacher because of the budget). This happens needlessly every year to multitudes of Maryland students.

This doesn't need to continue. We can change and remarkably improve the trajectory of all of our schools and students by fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Natalia Skolnik  
1131 William Street • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

A Sister, Aunt, great aunt, great great aunt, mother, wife, grand mother, great grandmother most of my great grand attend MCPS schools all of the grands have attended or are attending now, from first grade to one just graduated high school

My grands\great grands will benefit from blue print for Maryland's Future, it provides needed resources and ensures success for every student no matter where they are in learning. To promote their successful start in education to becoming the next president, doctor, lawyer, congressman, astronaut whatever they believe they can achieve through this blueprint in this evolving economy.

Henrietta Jenkins  
14903 Bradwill Court • 20850



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a grandparent of a six year old in Baltimore and a life-long educator.

I'll repeat what has become a cliché: Every child deserves a first class education. It's been said so often that it's lost its punch but that doesn't lessen the truth of it. The funding recommended by Kirwan can help to ameliorate the decades long slide of Baltimore schools and the attendant troubles that have ensued. We talk about caring for children. I hope the legislature and the governor have the courage to prove that we do.

Philip Yenawine  
2417 Brookfield Avenue • 21217





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Baltimore city resident and a volunteer reading tutor within the public school system.

Each time I walk into the Baltimore city public school where I volunteer, I am embarrassed and ashamed for my city. Students in Baltimore city overwhelmingly suffer from over-crowded classrooms, crumbling infrastructure, and lack of adequate trauma-informed teaching practices. Students living in poverty deserve just as stellar an education as those with economic comfort, and Baltimore's children are not receiving it. As a tax payer and property owner of Baltimore City, I support this legislation because it will serve to address some of the many needs of Baltimore's children and young adults. I want to live in a city in which residents are well-educated and nurtured from the earliest ages via expansion of pre-kindergarten, higher standards for teachers, higher compensation for teachers, and more support for high-poverty schools. Without this legislation, Maryland will continue to be an embarrassment in terms of education.

Joshua Espinoza  
S Ann St • 21231



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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I am parent of three children in elementary school in Maryland - ages 10, 8, and 5. Like my parents, and like other parents in Maryland, I want our children competitive, well equipped and well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that will present themselves as they grow into maturity. As we all know, a good foundation makes a tremendous difference as we prepare for the future.

As my father used to say, "You can either pay now or pay later." Investing in our education system is small cost, relative to the cost of not investing in our community, our education system, and our children.

Olayinka Kolawole  
15505 Finchingfield Way • 20774



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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the school counselor for 719 elementary school students in Anne Arundel County.

I am the only mental health professional who addresses the needs of all students in my building. Sixty percent of the time I am the only mental health professional in the building. (My school psychologist is split between multiple schools). Suicidal ideation does not magically appear in middle school--every year I work with parents of students expressing suicidal ideation as young as 7 years old. We know that nationwide we are facing a mental health crisis, especially in our youngest citizens. Marylanders are also suffering. Part of the problem is that the opioid epidemic not only took a toll on our working adults, but their children as well. The Maryland legislature has passed bills the last couple years to promote suicide prevention (Lauryn's Law), drug prevention (Start Talking Maryland Act), and sexual abuse prevention (Erin's Law), but not enough has been done to increase the number of professionals required to actually implement those laws. The Blueprint advocates for the American School Counselor Association recommended ratio of 250 students to every school counselor; not only for the preventative care mentioned above but also so that every child is prepared emotionally and academically for whatever post-secondary option they choose.

Holly Kleiderlein  
707 Pine Drift Drive • 21113



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm an MCPS graduate and current para-educator

We need EQUITABLE funding for everyone in our schools. PTA's make a large portion of funding for students to be able to go on trips, get supplies, and do after school activities. As a result it's natural that areas with higher income get better funded schools. It's also no coincidence that those areas tend to be whiter. It's unfair for our black and brown students to get the bare minimum and work to barely get by. Even in special education we have more support staff and advocates for help than we do for our equally disadvantage English Language Learners (ELL). When our school's are fully funded for all that education encompasses we can make a difference in the lives of ALL young people. For the young person who pays rent for a room while working at a restaurant and studying English in order to graduate. For the students who NEED calculators as a basic tool for math. For the para educators that try to fill in the gaps when class sizes get too big. Education is important to all of us in society and we need it to be equitable.

Zully Pineda  
10313 Brunswick Ave • 20902



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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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I have been a special education paraeducator in Montgomery County, serving diverse learners in the middle school setting for 13 years. As a supporting services professional, I make a difference in the lives of my students every day. While the work is challenging, we are rewarded with witnessing the growth and development of children who come to us with varying degrees of need--academically, economically, as well as socially and emotionally. As a public school educator, I embrace and accept whoever sits before me in the classroom, often times using my own resources to support my students.

I strongly support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB100) as I believe that it will help close the opportunity gap for many students across the state by providing the necessary resources to promote their success. The future of our communities, indeed our state, lies in the hands of our students. When we invest in them, we invest in ourselves! This legislation will enable additional supports and interventions for struggling learners, as well as our rising population of English Language Learners.

Additionally, I support Delegate Jared Solomon's amendment to include support professionals in the bill's funding, as we, paraeducators, directly instruct students, often times across multiple disciplines. Further, by funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, our state will be a model for the rest of the country--holding school systems and educators accountable and providing a world-class educational experience for all students around the state, including those who historically have been overlooked and underserved.

Lisa D. Bligen  
Laurel Lakes Ct. • 20707



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired MCPS Instructional Technology Specialist. As part of my 30 year career I taught elementary school and was a Staff Development Teacher/Specialist who supported the Professional Development of teachers. I am a product of Montgomery County Public Schools, as are my two children. My 5 grandchildren attend schools in Frederick and Prince George's Counties where I often volunteer.

I strongly support fully funding all of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) and support all five initiatives that will affect students, parents, teachers, and communities. More specifically, I believe the Early Childhood Education will give students the opportunity to enter Maryland's public schools at a leveled playing field with their peers. Data shows that students lacking the preschool experience are behind in kindergarten and many never catch up. I have worked with K-3 classrooms as a teacher, specialist, and most recently as a grandparent volunteer and have observed student frustration, teachers working incredibly hard with little support and parents asking questions. Funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will give preschoolers the gift of learning, entering school prepared, and teachers the time and energy to move their students forward with the supports that make teaching possible. Please, make Maryland's Education world-class, one that supports all of our children and sets them on the path for success. They want to be successful.

Lisa Fuller  
11112 Lake Breeze Drive • 20878



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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I have been an educator in Maryland for 15+ years from a first grade classroom teacher, to a literacy coach, to a district leader. My husband is also a high school teacher in Baltimore City, and our two girls attend elementary school in Baltimore City Public Schools.

I have personally seen the dedication of parents, teachers, and school leaders to improve education for all students. The personal commitment in the schools is strong, but there simply is not the funding to accomplish all that needs to be accomplished. I currently travel the country to support large urban districts develop their literacy programs, and when I look at the financial support of these districts, I know that Baltimore City and Maryland is underfunded. The families of Maryland deserve a world-class education, and we can give it to them.

Lindsay Sullivan  
601 Orkney Road • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I taught elementary school in Baltimore City for five years. Following that, I became the founder and Executive Director of the Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap, a nonprofit that provided teachers and schools with vital instructional materials.

As a former teacher and founder of a nonprofit that supported teachers with vital instructional materials, I experienced the detrimental effects of lack of education funding firsthand. Lack of teacher support contributed to my decision to leave the classroom and was the reason I started a nonprofit to provide the support that the district was unable to provide. Lack of resources and support is detrimental to students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

Melissa Badeker  
3020 Linwood Avenue • 21234





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a father of two 8 year old boys in the public school system.

Our youth can be an asset, not a liability. One of the best ways to ensure they become a strong asset for the future is to ensure they have world class education that is available no matter where they live and what household income they represent.

yosef kebede  
5600 wexford road • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am first generation immigrant in the US, I work with immigrant-origin youth to open opportunities for quality education so teenagers can pursue their dream of going to college.

Immigrant-origin youth make up for the highest rates of school drop-out, and low rates of college access and graduation. Having access to quality education in elementary and high school has proven to be the best tool to youth success. This legislation opens opportunity for underserved children and youth through equity and inclusion, facilitating access to opportunities all children need to succeed in life.

Monica Guerrero Vazquez  
Woodlea Ave • 21214



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a high school teacher, with K-12 experience, working at Woodlawn High.

I see students every day from chronically poor neighborhoods, who would benefit from beginning school at an earlier age, receiving additional social services, and an increase in international exposure.

Edward Warfield  
219 Berrymans Lane • 21136



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a neighborhood association president and mother of two who chooses to send my children to public school because I believe building communities builds futures.

I want my neighborhood (and the surrounding communities) to be safe, our homes to increase in value and I want my children to be able to attend public school. We want to live balanced lives where our children know their neighbors, where they can learn in an environment that is safe, diverse with thought and culture and they can see that this is a privilege that everyone not just they, has the right to receive.

Emily Brown  
1813 Blakefield Circle • 21093



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020**

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of two Baltimore City School graduates and I work in a Baltimore City Charter School. I see daily what our students lack in terms of prior preparation due to the lack of pre-kindergarten and also in terms of financial needs in my current school. We are always struggling to provide the best education for our students with limited resources.

Although I work and live in Baltimore City, I am urging you to pass this legislation for all the students in the state of Maryland. Our students deserve to be educated in world class schools with pre-K, access to vocational programs for those who choose not to attend college, teachers who are well prepared to help them learn and who are fairly compensated, and excellent curriculum and related services including mental health services. We are doing a disservice to our children and this will be manifested in deficiencies as they become adults, and thus detrimental to Maryland, unless the legislation passes this important legislation.

Karen Brown  
2434 Brambleton Rd. • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

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I am a future parent of Baltimore City public school students. My husband and I moved to Baltimore about a year and a half ago determined to live, work, and raise our family here.

As my husband and I have considered buying a home within Baltimore one of our chief concerns has been the poor quality of public schools in many neighborhoods. It is important to us that our kids, and everyone else's kids, have access to a free, world-class education here in the City.

Lauren Kelleher  
14 E Mount Vernon Place • 21202



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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I am a 7th and 8th grade math teacher in Baltimore City.

We all know that the United States is underperforming in education as a whole. For this reason, States need to step up and ensure that all children, no matter where they grow up, are receiving a quality education. This will take more resources, systems, and money. People throughout the US and Maryland continually ask for a system that addresses the needs of individual children, but we never have the resources necessary to give our students what they actually need. This legislation will ensure equitable funding, ensure higher quality teachers stay within the field of education, and will improve the education of children from all various income groups.

Austin Fausnaught  
2118 E Pratt Street • 21231



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a four and two year old

PreK must be expanded!

Nicole Buchholz  
1525 Cuba Street • 21230





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of a 9th grader in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

We have to set up our children for success by providing them with an education that prepares them for a lifetime of meaningful employment.

Jennifer Rooney  
1022 Harbor Drive • 21403



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

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

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I am a grandparent, have taught higher education, and have worked as a fundraising administrator in higher education.

Fundraising efforts as a college administrator with Boeing and other Navy contractors near Pax River NAS revealed their frustration at having to recruit qualified employees from outside Maryland because potential candidates within the state did not have the talent to qualify. With support from Boeing, we started an after-school science program (elementary level) to "home grow" candidates, a positive but very long-term project. The programs addressed in the current legislation are thoughtfully developed and exactly what are needed to raise educational levels for an economy that demands exceptional skills from a diverse population of Maryland students. Like Massachusetts, Maryland will become more prosperous because of it. It will accelerate, not drain, the economy of our state.

David Deaderick  
23155 Mirfield Land, Lexington Park • 20653



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

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

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I'm a parent and grandparent of children who thrived in Maryland public schools, attended or are attending first-rate universities and are successful workers, citizens and neighbors.

I want for all of Maryland's children the kind of schools and community supports that have led to my children/grandchildren becoming successful workers, citizens, neighbors. Providing support to Maryland's children from early childhood (80% of brain development occurs by 3 years old) through high school with strategies such as community schools that address their non-academic needs and better trained and paid teachers will help our children/families thrive and lead to healthier, better educated citizens which in turn will lead to a better economy and quality of life in our state.

Rebecca Hornbeck  
731 Colorado Avenue • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two city school students and I work for children every day with the operation of three schools.

This is a critical time in history and this is the opportunity to provide ALL children in Maryland with the quality education they deserve!

Gwendolyn Unoko  
Arabia Avenue, Baltimore, MD • 21214



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a resident of Baltimore City and the parent of a two year old who will be starting school in Baltimore City Public Schools in the next couple of years. I also work with children, families, and communities in Baltimore.

This legislation will ensure that all children in Maryland will have the excellent, world class education they deserve. My own son will benefit and so will thousands of children across the state. They will have access to career education so they can plan for their future, high quality teachers, and health and social supports.

Elizabeth Weber  
231 E 25th St • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mom of two college students.

My children and their children will benefit from Improvements in education which will make them more competitive for technical jobs going forward.

Sandi Millison  
12605 English orchard ct silver spring, md • 20906



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the father of two daughters working in Baltimore schools, and the grandfather of a high school girl attending a Baltimore public high school.

We have neglected a comprehensive approach to educating our children for too long, and some of that neglect is showing up as damaged young people in our streets murdering each other. My daughter's school does not have working water fountains, so what does that tell children about how they are valued? We need more support for teachers and decent places in which to teach.

James Cleghorn  
4000 N Charles Street • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Baltimore City parent of a current public high school student and a public charter school 3rd grader who has Down syndrome and is fully included in the general ed classroom.

Our public schools are in desperate need of additional funds to make up for years of underfunding - funds that will make possible smaller class sizes, more teacher training, and eventually a revamped formula for determining special education funding will be game changers for my kids.

Elizabeth Zogby  
357 Rosebank Ave • 21212





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Parent of two kids, one in Cecil County Schools, one who will be in Baltimore City in five years.

Public schools are among the most important thing we can offer our kids in Maryland, and the best opportunity for providing equitable education. I want to know that no matter where we live in the state, we can count on having facilities and teachers that can support our kids. I believe this bill will make changes we need to make that happen - it isn't happening now.

Rebecca Shillenn  
317 E. 23rd St. Baltimore, MD • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Baltimore City resident and the parent of a child attending a Baltimore City Public School.

My daughter, as well as all students in public schools across the state, will benefit from the additional funding that this legislation will guarantee. Students across the state deserve to enjoy an equity in the quality of their education, regardless of where they live.

Virgilio Victoriano  
2910 Dillon St. • 21224



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

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

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I have volunteered for years at the William Paca Elementary School in East Baltimore and see first-hand the unmet needs of Baltimore students. My two daughters are graduates of Baltimore public schools.

When I see the infinite potential in the fourth graders I meet through volunteering in their Paca Elementary School classrooms, I am overwhelmed by the need for smaller classrooms, better educational supplies, and higher level instruction. This legislation recognizes the special needs of students in high poverty areas like Baltimore City. These needs have been unmet for too many generations. Now is the time to give our kids an equal shot at success!

Linnea Anderson  
1518 Roundhill Road, Baltimore, Maryland • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Baltimore City resident and new mother to a three month old. I also work for an immigration organization that provides educational programming, including a Saturday tutoring program for immigrant children and the children of immigrants.

Young people in Maryland deserve the best possible educational opportunities, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status.

Cynthia Keenan  
4284 Clydesdale Ave. • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired education professor who also holds an MBA. I believe that American youth compete today with students from other countries whose educational systems are providing students with better preparation for careers and work. We must not fail to provide superior education and skills for all of our sakes.

My grandchildren will benefit both directly and indirectly.

William H. Martin  
20 Aintree Road • 21286



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former teacher from Anne Arundel county.

All of Maryland's children will benefit from this type of education that this legislation will provide!!

Terry Frey  
7 Oceans End • 21811



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Community School Coordinator at a Title I school in Baltimore City.

I support this legislation because I have been lucky enough to be a part of the community school strategy in Baltimore for the past several years and have seen first hand the impact that it can have on students. I am especially excited about the intent to increase the professionalism of teaching and give teachers incentives to stay in the classroom as they increase their success, rather than them feeling the need to leave the classroom to advance in their careers.

Jill Bradley  
1800 Washington Boulevard Suite 340 • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Education is a foundational element of creating a healthy contributing member of society and of creating healthy communities. As a long term citizen of Maryland, I look forward to seeing my grandchild learn with great teachers and great public schools.

I have noticed the demise of technical education and the removal of equipment from our schools. BUT, we need to have it restored so that my grandson can benefit from both the technical and academic aspects of education. He deserves this. Our communities deserve it. I believe it will also be an element of crime prevention because every student will be recognized for his/her own special gifts. Moreover, this legislation, and I have attended several of the regional hearings on the bill, will model for the rest of the country how serious investment in public schools truly makes a difference.

Donna Martin  
707 Maiden Choice Lane Apt 8G11 Catonsville MD • 21228





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of four Baltimore City public school students.

My children, in Baltimore City, attend exceptional Baltimore City Public Schools. These are choice schools and there are many students trying to secure a space, there are not enough spaces. ALL children should have a SAFE and challenging academic opportunity, not just the few in these prestigious schools.

Robyn Brody  
1904 Greenhaven Drive • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My two children graduated from Baltimore City Public Schools. I have always been a strong supporter of public education. It's critically important for the health and well-being of our nation.

The educational deficiency in the state of Maryland resulting from the lack of adequate funding and support has created terrible problems, particularly in Baltimore City where I have been a life long resident. Giving children a strong education is not only a human right, but also one of the keys to solving Baltimore's seemingly intractable problems: poverty, un- and underemployment, lack of adequate housing, etc. It's a long list. Without strong public education, these problems will not be solved. Endowing children as young as 2 years and continuing through their childhood with strong, comprehensive education and social support will bring Maryland greater economic growth as well as remediation of all the problems that have stagnated in Baltimore City for decades.

It's past time to remedy the terrible injustice (not to mention constitutionally unlawful practice) of poor, under or unfunded public education and to fully fund a future of comprehensive, excellent quality of education of all of Maryland's children.

Sarah Begus

4000 N. Charles St. #1403, Baltimore Md • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Attorney/child advocate for 36 years in Baltimore City. Mother of 3 boys who attended a mix of public and private schools

I have seen first hand the devastating effect of inadequate public education has on a young person in Baltimore. My clients have been abused and neglected children, foster care children and special education students. While there are pockets of successful schools in our system, the majority of our children have been failed by the city's education system. I have seen the positive difference the community school model can have and believe the resources provided to the community by these schools should be standard for all schools. Also, we need to compensate and support teachers so that we retain qualified teachers.

Jeannette Karpay  
230 Stony Run Lane • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a middle school special educator who is teaching in the county I grew up in.

I support this legislation because it will broaden and deepen the educational opportunities available to my students.

Jacquelyn Booth  
1100 Seaford Ct • 21014



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent of five school-aged children who depend on their local school to provide them a quality education

My grandchildren will benefit greatly from the kind of career and technical education this kind of legislation provides

Linda  
3902 Grantley Road • 31315



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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I am a Community School Coordinator in a Baltimore City Public School. I have worked in Community Schools in the city for 4 years now.

As a Community School Coordinator, I work to connect families and the school community with additional resources that students need to thrive in school and be successful long term. This legislation will not only support many additional schools with a full time Community School Coordinator, but will also build in permanent supports, such as full day Pre-K for students.

Magdalena Tsiongas  
104 N Linwood Ave • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Before becoming my neighborhood Association President and a mother of two children who attend public school in Maryland, I was a College Admissions Director who lived in the Federal Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City.

Fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland's future is a targeted strategy that can affect 44% of our low socioeconomic status communities. Educated people trust in community. Educated people have jobs and people with jobs spend money.

As a College Admissions Director, I shook the hands of former ex-offender drug dealers who desired an honest living but needed coaching to pass a basic math entrance exam. I lived in Federal Hill. I loved the home I invested \$70k of my savings in to renovate. Then a murdered body was rolled out of a car. It landed on the stairs leading to the park where I took my dog to play every day. I promptly moved out of my neighborhood and then out of the city.

My husband, a small business owner and 13 year attendee of private school foresaw our need to invest in public education and to raise the tide as opposed to run from it. I did not agree at first. But he convinced me and we enrolled our children in public school. 90% of our similarly aged neighbor children do the same.

I connected my politically bipartisan community and became neighborhood president. This resulted in more investment of homes and smarter living. We now spend our collective resources on legal consultants, insurance, landscaping and hospitality events. We report solicitors and the only crime we have is car theft when people leave their doors unlocked. We involve the government to improve our neighborhood after we collectively agree on the need. But during the first month of January 2020 we experienced three carjackings and one armed robbery. All five minutes from our homes at establishments I frequent with my children. There is a scarcity of resources across Maryland. It affects us all.

Blueprint for MD's future will improve the value and safety of all of our neighborhoods. By paying for social services on the front end, we will be able to enforce positive life choices for all children. Let's show the world how to embrace the benefits diversity offers.

Emily Brown  
1813 Blakefield Circle, Lutherville, MD • 21093



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two children who attend Prince Georges County Public Schools

I support this legislation because it will benefit all public school students in Maryland.

Sarah Eisen  
4001 Jefferson Street • 20781





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of Tania Harrison Cone, a student at School 66 in Baltimore, who died at the age of eight from a rare form of lymphoma. Already by the late seventies, this school and other public schools with which I was familiar faced many challenges - lack of resources, insufficient support for the dedicated teachers, and the beginnings of a negative trend for children to drop out of school.

We who are passionate about the students, not only in Baltimore, but around the state, have such an exceptional opportunity to significantly improve Maryland's public school educational system. I join with so many others from every jurisdiction in support of the Blueprint of Maryland's Future Legislation. I implore you not to lose this extraordinary opportunity to create as world class opportunity for Maryland's students and their future careers. How can we not?

jane harrison  
4100 North Charles Street,#704, Baltimore, MD. 21218 • 21218



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have worked in the public education field in Baltimore City for 27 years, first as a City Schools teacher and then at the Abell Foundation as a Sr. Program Officer for Education. Furthermore, I am the parent of two Baltimore City Schools graduates, and my daughter and son-in law have spent over 10 years as teachers in the City school system.

I am in support of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000). I witnessed the positive impact of the 2002 Bridge to Excellence (Thornton Commission) funding on the trajectories of low-income students in Baltimore City Public Schools until its promised increases were ended in 2010. Perhaps the most important component of The Blueprint is the commitment to equitable funding for children living in concentrated poverty, impacting a disproportionate number of children of color in Maryland. Furthermore, many of the recommended policies of The Blueprint, such as early intervention for 3 year-olds and struggling learners, and expanded career and technical education pathways will greatly benefit these same students. Lastly, the Blueprint creates an accountability mechanism for local government and school systems to invest more deeply in and report more transparently about the outcomes for public education. I urge the committees to pledge support for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Bonnie Legro  
1331 Bolton Street • 21217



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Grandparent of two school age kids...also an RN. We need to make Maryland the greatest educational state. There is nothing more important than our children and their future.

The economy will grow. Crime will go down and health will improve....women can join the workforce!

Susan Anderson  
108 Elmhurst Rd. Baltimore 21210 • 21210



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent to a young child who will soon be school aged.

I believe my child, and all future children, deserve to have a world class, top tier education. An investment in our schools and children now will pay returns for all generations to come. This is so incredibly important to give children the best chance to be competitive in an increasingly globalized economy.

Patrick Forgione  
600 Roundtree Ct, Sykesville, MD • 21784



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

New York public school graduate, father of three Kent County public school graduates and grandfather to three and one more soon-to-be Kent County public school attendees.

State and local government investment in the education of our youth is not a cost, but an investment in the future of our localities, state, country and planet, and should be maximized. This is only common sense, as is the fact that the state should take fiscal responsibility for supplement of its poorer rural and inner city sectors.

Robert Behr  
110 North Queen Street Chestertown, MD • 21620



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have worked as a paraeducator in MCPS for 28 years. One of my daughters went through MCPS with an IEP and she could not have successfully accessed the curriculum without their support.

During my time in MCPS, I have seen the needs of students grow, and the staffing allocated to paraeducators reduced. Most schools will tell you they are understaffed. This means that paras are pulled at any given moment to provide "coverage" during an incident or another staff's absence. This denies the students stable support and disrupts relationship building and trust. There is also a shortage of qualified applicants for para positions because paras are paid too little for the skills, knowledge and support they provide. Market pressures compete with us hiring and retaining the best people. Schools suffer, classrooms suffer, and most importantly, students suffer. Paras and other instructional staff need to be valued and respected for the work they do. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future needs to recognize these staff members as they are providing 25% of the instruction that our students receive.

Sally Murek  
Chisholm Landing Way • 20878



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of a special needs son, who, if our schools were properly funded, and had the resources he needed in kindergarten, would have had a far greater chance to succeed in his home school, and not be sent to a private, special needs school in another state on our county and states dime.

There is no doubt our state can do better for our children. They are literally the future; our legacy. With programs like community schools in our poverty-level neighborhoods, proper teacher pay to retain quality teachers, and making certain we have proper resources in our schools sets the stage for our children to succeed. As the mother of a special needs son, I know firsthand that offering proper resources, at the right time, pays in dividends for the rest of that child's life. Without those resources, children like my son have a future that includes failing grades, dropping out of school, getting in with the wrong crowds, drug use, and high suicide rates. Maryland CAN and SHOULD do better than it currently is.

Leigha Messick  
7030 Gorham Lane • 2646



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a former high school teacher and still work in the education area. Education is the cornerstone of who we are and what we have become. Everything you and I know we were taught. The high school diploma, college degree, Masters, Doctorate, Law degree, certification, etc. All required education. Make it a priority and not an afterthought. Maryland's future depends on it!

To secure the future of the children of Maryland.

Douglas Hemphill  
Indian Summer Court • 21009





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm an educator in BCPSS for 20 years. I have children who were BCPSS students and God-children who are currently BCPSS students.

My students and children will benefit from this legislation.

Tanya Boye  
Eutaw Place • 21217



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University, partner with Baltimore City Public Schools, and Baltimore city resident.

A strong education for each child benefits our whole society. One child without opportunity is a debt we all end up paying.

Rachel E. Durham  
710 W 33rd Street • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

independent school teacher

For the sake of Maryland's kids

Tom Buck  
2810 Andrea Avenue • 21234



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a 5th grader and 9th grader in Baltimore City public schools. I am also a professor of education.

My children and all children benefit from the additional funding to education that will enable them to have access to a world class education. I am particularly passionate about all kids, not just my kids, having access to the best teachers, curriculum, facilities, and enrichment there is. Only then can we see our way to a more equitable society.

Jessica Shiller  
6105 Westcliff Dr • 21209



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two children who attended public school in Baltimore.

The community's children will benefit for a lifetime!

Elaine Richman  
Ivydene Terrace • 21209



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the mother of a high-achieving 1st grader on the autism spectrum in a low-performing public school in Bowie, Maryland.

I support this legislation because I strongly believe in the promise of a high-quality public school education for every child in the State, and I am willing to pay more in taxes so that every child has the opportunity to succeed. My husband has lived in and paid taxes for our townhome for more than 20 years, investing in PGCPs schools. The Kirwan Commission's recommendations will ensure that that investment has accountability. We owe it to all kids to have excellent, well-paid teachers, adequate counselors, art and music education, and universal pre-K. Please support this bill!

Elle Irby  
3520 Easton Drive, Bowie, MD • 20716



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Media Assistant and Paraeducator.

This legislation will support additional assistance for our special education children.

Susan  
5505 Parkston Road • 20816



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former teacher and member of Indivisible HoCo MD's education action team

We need to retain the good teachers we have - we are losing them far too quickly. We also need to get children from low SES areas ready to succeed in school by providing pre-school, And we need to offer more job readiness training for those who won't attend college

Joanne Locke  
8575 Autumn Harvest • 21043





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I was a biomedical librarian until retirement.

It is so important for our society that people know how to ask questions and seek answers.

Phyllis Lansing  
715 Maiden Choice Ln# 403 • 21228



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Nonprofit business owner service provider for community.

Working with young people in out of school time program and funding is needed.

Michelle Webb  
5510 CEDELLA AVE • 21206



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am in my 8th year as a Special Ed Paraeducator in Montgomery County and also the parent of a High Schooler in MCPS. I have spent my career working with children on their reading and I have seen both Special Ed and General Ed children struggle unnecessarily. I have seen children struggle with rudimentary skills in Kindergarten but not get identified as needing, or approved for receiving interventions until 2nd or 3rd grade. By that time it's already too late for some. We need to reach our children as early as possible.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources needed to make sure that EVERY child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will help children who struggle with reading by getting interventions identified much earlier. The earlier reading struggles are identified, the earlier they can be helped. No child should enter Middle or High School not knowing how to read. Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to better outcomes for students. Our students, who have been continually underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education options. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, our Maryland schools will be the benchmark example for other states to follow.

Susan Ostrinsky  
18700 Muncaster Road • 20855



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a special education paraeducator who had two children complete their entire education in MCPS.

My students will benefit from the career and technical education that this legislation provides. I know my future grandchildren will also attend MCPS.

Mary Finn  
11505 Paramus Drive • 20878



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of two children who are enrolled in kindergarten and third grade at a Baltimore City Public School. BCPS has a policy of school choice, so we are able to send our kids to an out-of-zone school - so long as we can get them there. The school our children are enrolled at is 4.4 miles from home. We pass 7 elementary schools on our way each morning, including one that is just two blocks from home. The reasons we opted not to send our children to our zoned school are plentiful. It does not have afterschool programming to offer our children additional learning opportunities in sports and the arts while we are at work every day. It doesn't have an active PTO that can fundraise to offset the budget shortfalls that BCPS experiences every year. It doesn't even have air conditioning. In addition to that, we live in a neighborhood with a high concentration of poverty, and we recognize that children do not leave their burdens at the school doors. Children in under-resourced communities require additional supports in the classroom if we expect them to overcome mental health issues, trauma, poor nutrition, and related behavioral issues. Teachers who are not adequately trained to support these students cannot possibly be expected to deliver high quality learning outcomes to a class of 25+ students.

We are privileged to be able to independently commute to school daily, so that our children can have the best public education possible. I wish we could receive the same level of education at our zoned school, in our own neighborhood. All children deserve an excellent public education, regardless of zip code. And at the very least, our state constitution requires an adequate public education. We are falling short as a state, and we have an obligation to our children - and frankly to our future selves and our economy - to educate the next generation so they are prepared to take on the challenges of a changing world. The majority of high school graduates in Maryland aren't prepared to take on the challenges of today's economy. We all must do better and contribute towards public education - the time is now.

Suzanne Kashnow  
10 N Calhoun St • 21223



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent and advocate for public education.

This legislation is essential for getting schools the resources they need to address the varied needs of children. Though the bill requires creativity in finding the revenue, if we don't commit, we will continue to fail generations of children. I want every child to have access to a quality education and the support needed to realize their potential. Please commit to fully funding public education.

Rebecca Yenawine  
2412 Madison Ave Baltimore, MD • 21217



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a teacher in Prince George's County and have 2 children.

The high schools I teach at provides a mediocre education. We need more guidance counselors to help students plan for college and career and social services to assist students with a variety of problems. Our computers are from 2012 and are always tied up with testing, not allowing students to develop technology skills needed for a modern workforce. Good educators are regularly leaving our school for jobs with better pay in DC. Our children need and deserve to be better equipped for their future.

Kari Rowe  
4216 29th street • 20712



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of 2 children in HCPSS, graduating class of 2025 and 2027.

Maryland public schools are underfunded. Every year in Howard County, the amount of money the county provides for the HCPSS budget falls considerably short of funding needs. Cuts to services have been made every single year my children have been a part of HCPSS. The state needs to provide more funding for Maryland's public schools.

Kelly Balchunas  
10930 White Dahlia Drive • 21163





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of 1 child currently in Kindergarten at a private school. I am unable to send my daughter to the local public school because of how much our neighborhood school lacks.

My husband and I spend a major portion of our income paying for private school because my public school is failing. If Kirwan passes, we would be better off because we might be able to send her to public school.

Kristin Salgado  
14003 Briston Street, #F, Laurel, MD 20707 • 20707



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two elementary school students in Baltimore.

I want Baltimore City schools to be fairly funded because all students deserve a great education, including my own.

Chelsea Shudtz  
614 pubped way • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I was born and raised in Montgomery County and I am a grandparent of three children who will be in school in the State of Maryland.

I believe all students are deserving of education in all Counties that are EQUALLY given the money per person. Please share it among these students and Teachers so we will continue to produce intelligent individuals from our school system.

Jonni Giarth  
White Sands Drive • 20874



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I was a student of Montgomery County Public School, Attend Montgomery College and now work for Montgomery County Public Schools as a Media Services Technician. After a career in professional theater, television and entertainment technology, I found my way back in education. I also plan on my kids going through the MCPS. Most of my family has or does work in education.

Through this legislation we will find better funding for school. In my mind there is no greater investment that of our futures, The students of today will be the inventors, doctors, law makers, etc... of tomorrow. A building is only as strong as its foundation, This is true of Humans as well. If we can provide a well rounded educational foundation we will create a well rounded educated population of citizens. We owe it to the generations coming to give every student the best education possible.

James Mulhern  
Ladd St, Silver Spring MD • 20902



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Retired mcps art teacher. Presently volunteering doing Reading Partners program in Baltimore.

I have two grandchildren who will be attending Maryland schools in a few years. But more importantly I have seen how all children benefit from pre-k and smaller class sizes. Also some children are not interested in college and should have the opportunity for a technical career. The country needs those people!

Terri Lawrence  
Steuart St. Baltimore md • 21230



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The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

As a young woman, I trained to teach high school in Scotland, and taught there for 2 years. Then my husband moved us to the USA, and I taught here for 4 years, until I had my kids. I grew up in a family which whole-heartedly supported and encouraged public schools, and so did I. I am now elderly and retired, but never lost my desire to see public education thrive. .

Now more than ever, with the distractions of the internet and other media, our children are left behind other countries in their knowledge of the crucial basics of logic and critical thinking. Support of our public schools is of the utmost importance.

Anna McNaught  
742 E Lake Ave • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two kids in Baltimore City and a former City Schools teacher.

This legislation helps to address the systemic racism that has blocked many Black and Brown kids from getting a good education, and growing into their fullest potential through opportunities inside of schools, for too many years.

Liz Simon-Higgs  
308 E Randall St • 21230



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The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former high school teacher and the grandmother of 3 school-age children.

All our children--not just my grandchildren--need the education for the future that this legislation provides.

Patricia Montley  
207 Spring Avenue • 21093





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Baltimore city resident, parent of two children, and director of a non-profit focused on early childhood literacy. I've lived in Maryland for 20 years, including 17 years in Baltimore. I have spent my entire career in the non-profit sector focused on education.

"There is nothing more unequal, than the equal treatment, of unequals." This quote and sentiment has been at the very core of my professional career and drive to impact the world I live in. All children, families, and communities should have the resources they need to make the choices and decisions they want. But, all too often in our society, access to the services and resources needed to achieve what every citizen should be entitled to, is either missing, poorly funded, or not high-quality. This legislation does not only seek to fill gaps and create opportunity where there is none - but to also serve as a statement and declaration that, in the state of Maryland - we value all people.

Jeffrey Zwillenberg  
1304 W 40 St. • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I've lived and worked in Montgomery for over 35 years. I'm a 27-year employee in Montgomery County Public Schools. But, more importantly, I'm depending on today's students to be well prepared for their future endeavors, long after I'm retired.

My wish is for Maryland to create a World-Class Education and a learning environment where NO CHILD is LEFT BEHIND--and maybe this time around for ALL children. The time is now to close the perpetual or perceived Achievement Gap and for all children to be provided the tools necessary to succeed the best way possible, to prepare for this Century's job market. Not everyone is college-bound, not everyone will hold a full-time job for a variety of reasons beyond their control, but, let's create a learning environment where all children become a credit to society by providing academic and technical opportunities, along with proper job training, for the future success of all to learn and find jobs that provide a self-supporting lifestyle. Maryland's forecasted economic and sustainable growth depends upon creating educational settings that prepare students for the future.

Judith Mills  
11205 Maine Cove Drive, North Potomac, MD • 20878



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of a librarian/media specialist daughter and son-in-law who are both educators in Maryland. We have a 2 year old granddaughter who will eventually be attending public school.

I want my granddaughter as well as all children in our community to benefit from the improved academic and "better future" this legislation will produce.

Denise Smith  
13401 Burnt Woods Pl • 20874



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a father of two young children who's educational outcomes depend on full school funding.

My children and their peers will benefit from funding that ensures they have a quality STEAM education!

Justin Pickering  
Perryman Rd • 21001



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two (almost 3) Baltimore City Public School students. I am a therapist working in Baltimore City Public schools.

The quality of my children's education is dependent on increased support for our public schools. In particular they will benefit from teachers who are supported and well paid, smaller class sizes, and mental health staff and services in every building.

Shannon Fleming Bray  
301 Winston Ave • 21212



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have worked for MCPS for 28 years--14 in the classroom as a paraeducator and 14 in Human Resources. My three adult children all graduated from MCPS schools and benefitted greatly from such programs as French Immersion, CAP at Blair HS and the Leadership Academy at Kennedy HS.

Our students are facing an increasingly complex and difficult to navigate world. Preparing our students to be successful in college and career and to contribute to society is a huge task placed on our schools and families. We owe it to our students to provide them with the best education to support this effort. That takes funding. As a 70-year old who will soon be depending on the younger generation to support me through whatever life sends my way, I want them to be trained and educated to the best of our ability.

Elizabeth Povtak  
Pinewood Avenue • 20901



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of a 1st grader who attends one of Baltimore City's public schools.

I want my daughter to go to a great school and be taught by teachers that are paid their worth for doing such an important job. All our kids in MD deserve access to strong public schools in their neighborhoods.

Corina Lippard  
Andre St, Baltimore City • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a Special Education Paraeducator now for 16 years now, 10 years in Montgomery County one of the premier school systems in the country. I have a case load of at least 30 kids five of whom can not read, and process. I find it appalling that any child can make it to middle school not being able to read. It is everyone's right to be able to read .

All children should be able to read upon leaving elementary school and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary because this piece of legislation provides children to learn properly and change the lives of children making them successful in future endeavors. This is our chance to make things more equitable so the children that really need the help get it.

Brian Spivey  
25745 Valley Park Terrace Damascus,Md • 20872





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandfather of a child who is in kindergarten right now.

My granddaughter will benefit from the type of career and technical education that this legislation provides.

Daniel Cole  
9 North Virginia Ave • 21716



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My son is a 4th grader at Roland Park Elementary Middle School in Baltimore City.

In Maryland, where you live determines the education our children and others in our community receive. We live in Baltimore City -- a drastically underfunded jurisdiction -- yet my son still has advantages that other Baltimore City students don't have because parents and the PTA supplement his school's budget. At the same time, he had 32 other students in his class from K - 3 and doesn't have the same access to enrichment programming that students in wealthier jurisdictions enjoy. These disparities will be addressed by the recommendations made by the Kirwan Commission. I urge you to support the Kirwan legislation as well as identifying funding sources now -- like closing corporate loopholes -- to fund the commission's recommendations through its 10-year implementation.

Joyce Stacey Mink  
214 Longwood Road • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall.

My child deserves to have a world class education. The children he will attend school with deserve the same. Currently PG Schools need a whole lot of help and fully funding the Kirwan recommendations will provide that.

Krista Clark  
3719 37th St • 20712



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Joan

I have been an education advocate for over 35 years. I have followed and supported the 3 previous education funding commission recommendations. I believe if HB 1300 is enacted we will make great strides towards having a world class education for all Maryland's children.

I am excited to support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future's funding legislation. This is the fourth funding initiative in Maryland since I became an education activist. The third the Thorton Commission passed and moved us towards equity until the recession when the legislature stopped fully funding the proposal. I hope with the passage of this initiative we will be on a permanent road to adequate and equitable funding.

Passing a new funding formula means that we can expand career and technical education, provide additional support to struggling learners, significantly increase the number of seats in prek3 and prek4, hire more educators and increase their pay, and create lasting educational equity and a more prosperous future for our state. It won't just improve our schools—it will also help build a stronger economy and prepare our students for the jobs of the future. The time is now to pass a new formula—our kids can't wait.

I am counting on you to help deliver this generation defining legislation and to create a more prosperous future for our students and schools by passing and funding a new funding formula in the 2020 General Assembly session. Together, we can make strong schools work for Maryland.

Joan

402 14th Street • 21842



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a school social worker who has been working in AACPS schools for 15 years, I work with special education students, general education students, homeless students and support families. Mental health in the schools is essential to helping students be successful and manage problems that most definitely spill into our schools. I have been a LCSW-C since 2000. I work very hard and get paid okay, we just don't have enough of us to serve the growing numbers. We need more counselors, school psychologists and school social workers, especially recruiting and seeking more Spanish speaking professionals.

I have seen qualified teachers come and go. Teachers should be paid a fair working wage like other high tech and professional jobs pay. Maryland will not retain qualified teachers. To not fully fund education will take a toll on our society in the long run. We wont be producing productive citizens and we certainly will not be ready to meet the demands of our future. Tech ed programs and trade schools are extremely important as well because these will give education and jobs to students who do not plan to go to college. These are valuable jobs and employers can not fill needed positions because our young people are not being trained to fulfill them. Fully funding Maryland schools and their programs is common sense.

Khristine Smith  
130 Severn Ave • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a young adult who was lucky enough to go through some of the best schools in Maryland. I live in Montgomery County and the schools in my district are very highly rated. I am a lifelong resident of the state, and went entirely to private schools. When I graduated from high-school, I did not feel that I was prepared for college, although the school I went to was a college-prep school.

I have seen first-hand how the education in public schools can outmatch private schools. They have better teachers, who are more knowledgeable about the subject-matter, and better resources. However, I say that because my only experience is in Montgomery County. My brother lives in Anne Arundel County. He made a hard decision to take his kids out of public school and pay extra for private school because the schools in his area were terrible. Lack of funding, gangs, theft, and lots of security issues made the choice obvious after only a few months. We should not live in a state where the schools are so very different. We should make sure that we prop up the schools and teachers in poorer areas so that everyone has the same playing field. This is our children's future. We need to do the right thing and take education funding seriously.

Cecilia Plante  
17416 Evangeline Lane • 20832



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired school psychologist and worked in Baltimore City Schools for over two decades.

For many years, Maryland stated that money from the legalization of gambling would result in funding for schools, but the money was funneled to other causes, to the detriment of schools and our students. I believe that investing in the education of our children is the most important cause in the long run. Children are the future and they will be the citizens making decisions that will affect the progress of our state in many ways. Please make sure that they are given what they need to maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit. We will all benefit from this!

Ann Carberry  
1544 OAKLEY LN • 210761488



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Special Education Paraeducator and Media Assistant with MCPS, and have been for 22 years. My school serves students in pre-k through 5th grades including the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students of Montgomery County. My grown children are both graduates of the Montgomery County Public School System.

The Blueprint for Maryland's future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's Children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again. Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce need of our evolving economy. Our students will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways.

When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's future, not only will Maryland Schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well. For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Beth Molek  
25 Parson Grove Ct, Olney, MD • 20832





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Interested Maryland resident seeking quality education for all children regardless of their economic background.

All children will benefit from the increased funding for all educational programs traditional vs. nontraditional programs.

Jackson  
408 Warlock ct • 21061



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Baltimore City resident

Quality education is the right of every child.

Lisa Zeimer  
Cloverhill Road • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

When I look back at the personal and professional aspects of my life I realize that their high quality was the consequence of the education I received outside of the USA, an education that was practically free all the way to my Ph.D.

I hold that the youth of this country deserves the same opportunity as I did. Since we all will benefit from a better educated population we should support the effort with our votes and taxes.

Ran Zeimer  
Cloverhill road • 21218



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020**

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Baltimore City resident.

I don't believe our children's future should be determined by their zip code.

Kim Wiggins  
157 N. Milton • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the mother of two fourth graders in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Education is a right that should be equitably and competently provided for all children in Maryland no matter where they live. I should not be excited that after averaging more than 30 students per class for grades K – 3, my fourth graders finally have class sizes of... 26. How can we expect to meet children where they are at and take them to the next level when there are 30 children in a class? For too long, we have been short-changing vast numbers of children by not providing them a strong foundation with which they can move forward to become contributing members of Maryland's society and economy. By fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will you be telling all children that they are valued and important, but you will also be creating a stronger and more viable future for the entire state.

Justine Abel  
4431 Wickford Rd • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired teacher of 44 years.

I believe that education is most important because ignorance is much more expensive.

Ronald Jones  
11640 Twin Oaks Drive • 21811



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former MCPS support staff professional and I understand the difference that proper funding can make in the lives of students. Also, proper funding can support attracting and retaining quality educators.

The future of Maryland is at stake. When will we as a state put our money where our mouth is to ensure that ALL students and ALL educators get the resources they need to be successful.

PierAngeli Morrison  
8206 Harvest Bend Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 • 20707



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a MCPS graduate. I had two children graduated from. MCPS. As well as a Para Educator.

My students at Piney Branch Elementary School.

Sharon Allison  
1033 Pinecrest Drive • 21403





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been an educator for over 20 years working in the capacity of counseling, building and central office leadership for three public school systems. In addition, I have trained future educators through McDaniel's Graduate Program for Professional Studies.

Our students are hurting more than ever. We are seeing a steadily increasing number of students with mental health issues. School counselors work with student's academically, emotionally and with their career aspirations. While COMAR passed requiring professional school counselors to spend 80% of their time providing direct services and additional legislation requiring increasing numbers of students to enter college programming, resources to add the human resource of school counselors has not increased in capacities to support this success. I have actually seen counselor with caseloads of 500+ students. The American School Counseling Association's guidelines are fully integrated into COMAR 13A.05.05.02. The American School Counseling Association recommends school counseling to student ratios of 1:250. Our students deserve the best education system in the United States to grow, study and support the vibrant Maryland economy and change some of the negative trends our State has seen recently.

Dr. Steve Burnett  
15 Mary Carroll Ct., Pikesville • 21208



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a grandparent of two elementary school students.

My grandchildren will benefit from the career and technical education this legislation will give us. Plus I will benefit from the economic boost improved education will provide.

Mara Braverman  
6 Upland Road • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My children all attended Maryland Schools. I currently volunteer with Reading Partners.

A dynamic and strong education program requires full funding. Education is a big part of not just our future but of our national security. We can not afford to gloss over the huge importance education plays in our community. Supporting this bill just makes perfect sense for the state of Maryland now and beyond. Make the right choice by supporting this legislation.

Gwen Stewart  
4822 Ft Sumner Dr Bethesda, MD • 20816



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandmother who attended public schools, sent my children to the Baltimore City Public Schools and have grand children who have attended Baltimore City Public Schools. As a retired university professor I have also worked with many generations of public school graduates from across the state of Maryland.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that fewer than 40% of the children leaving state public schools are adequately prepared for college or to enter other paths that will lead to a well-paying career. I am also appalled that Black, Latinx and low-income students bear the brunt of the historical pattern of inequitable and insufficient funding that has persisted in this state for generations. This legislation addresses both of these concerns by ending under-funding, rewarding sound and dedicated teaching, creating college and career pathways for all students, and establishing a system of accountability to ensure full implementation of these reforms.

Jo Ann O. Robinson  
3012 Abell Avenue • 21218



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a returning college student after 15 years who's concerned that educating the future generations is becoming a tertiary goal

Every one in society benefits from education being widespread. It is a right not a privilege

Stephen King  
212 Bloomsbury Ave. Catonsville MD • 21228



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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I've been teaching since 1990, in Baltimore since 2001. I now teach Baltimore's most traumatized children in a psychiatric hospital setting. Whatever it is that brings them in the door, I know that they need a school team ready to surround them with love and professional capacity as soon as they return to school.

The mental health, special ed, and community school supports this legislation brings will change -- and sometimes save -- lives. The social workers, nurses, and all the other outreach personnel on top of the early learning, instructional, and career readiness improvements can make the difference in whether a child lives up to his or her potential. After being in the classroom for so long in three different states, I am proud of Maryland for taking such great strides towards what makes so much sense and builds such a brighter future for all kids.

Abigail Breiseth  
829 Hollins St. • 21201



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I live in Baltimore county and have worked in adult literacy classes with folks who need to train for new jobs. So many lack the basic skills that retraining programs dont work for them.

In order for Maryland to grow, we need students finishing high school with the skills to get a decent job or go to college. If education is not funded at the highest level, then the state will be paying more money to keep people in jail and to hire more police. We should be doing everything possible to stimulate our economy in a positive way rather than causing further decline of our cities and state.

Debra brown felser  
2010 jolly rd • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the grandmother of three young girls attending elementary and middle schools in the BCPSS and a retired national education advocate for P-k-12 quality education for all children.

It seems as though the Commission was deliberate and thoughtful in using their research to finalize their findings.

Zattura Sims-El  
E. 33rd Street • 21218





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I am a paraeducator working in an elementary school in Gaithersburg and have worked with all children grades K-5 for the last 16 years.

This legislation is critical to provide the necessary resources for our very diverse population. We have children arriving on a weekly basis from other countries speaking no English and it's imperative that we provide the resources and staff to ensure that these students, and all students, can be successful.

Anne Collins  
18512 Viburnum Way, Olney MD • 20832



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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a special education paraeducator with MCPS.

The students in MCPS will benefit from the support provided by the support staff in the school system.

Fern Silva  
Clover Hill Lane • 20832



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two children, one who is in second grade and one who will enter elementary school in another 2.5 years. I also work with undergraduate and graduate students and can attest to the critical need for Maryland to have a well-funded public educational system.

Hiring more educators at a competitive salary is critical in our specific school system (Youth's Benefit Elementary School in Harford County) as we are nearly max capacity in class size and lost teachers last year due to budget cuts! On top of the clear need for additional funding in our school system across the state, it is ridiculous for us to expect teachers to work efficiently when they need to take on additional jobs to make ends meet.

Leslie Loving  
2711 PARKSHIRE DR. • 21047



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a high school special educator in Baltimore City.

This legislation is important in offering reform to a system that is broken and difficult to navigate. This legislation is responsive to actual needs in the system and research that indicates what areas can be affected.

Julie Merrell  
2106 Gough St Apt B • 21231



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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a student at Baltimore city college, and I am a member of SOMOS

I support this because me as a student and as a student I would like to see future generations have the best education and diversity

jennifer cajas  
Hartwait • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I go to Baltimore city college, I'm a sophomore, and I am from the United States and my parents are from El Salvador.

I believe this will help me beyond my future career and I want to experience and learn new education in life. I support the High quality and diverse teachers and leaders.

Erick Baires-Zavala  
3302 Taylor Ave • 21234



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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a resident of Baltimore County.

I believe Baltimore city and county deserve the implementation of the Kirwin Commission to lift it out of the cycle of poor education, unemployment, poverty, and crime.

Ellen Love  
3000 Stone Cliff Dr #210 • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am an MCPS staff member and I have a son that will be entering K next school year.

I want all students (Including my own children) to have the best possible chance at success.

Lauren Whitney  
2609 Woodedge Rd • 20906





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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a 15 year old, attending my 2nd year at Baltimore City College Highschool.

I support this legislation because I believe that many kids are not getting the education they need to be prepared for college and the many obstacles that it many people face nowadays. This legislation would help the many kids who are seeking for more education and support for their needs.

Lesly Quizhpi  
406 Joplin st • 21224



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Junior at Baltimore City college, I'm also a member of SOMOS. I have been in the Baltimore city public school system since I came to the U.S back in 2014.

High quality and diverse teachers and leaders it's a really Beneficial thing for the Latin community found in the district not only the school teachers but the community leaders

Katherine Banegas-Bonilla  
603 N Belnord Ave • 21205



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Im a Para Educator for Rock Creek Valley Elem.

My co-workers and I would benefit. We love our jobs and are passionate about the future of our children. However, it is very hard to survive off of our salary, over half of us our working part time jobs and still struggling financially.

Frances  
Apt. 407 • 20852



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Physician/Executive in Population Health and Resident of West Baltimore

Improved education is the single greatest thing we can do to impact the health of the next generation. The best predictor of health in middle age is a high-school diploma. Improved education at every level will increase the chances of matriculation and graduation, open the opportunity for jobs and higher education and impact health for generations.

Charles Callahan  
100 S. Stricker St • 21223



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired registered nurse, currently serving in a volunteer capacity as a parish nurse.

To prepare for and execute my professional responsibilities, I required, and luckily received, a well-rounded and comprehensive public education that assured my ability to attain professional status. As a recent retiree, I am acutely aware that for the remainder of my life I am going to need to depend on the next generation to have also to been adequately supported in their public education so that they can also become first-class providers of care. The Blueprint for Maryland's future will provide that kind of education to all of Maryland's children, thus ensuring a deep pool of talent that will be sorely needed as my generation, and future ones, need the best quality health care available from the best healthcare workers available.

William Roberts  
1017 Lillies Lane, Ellicott City, MD • 21043



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired teacher who worked with high school students for 20 years.

I noticed over the course of my career that students in my HS classes were declining in their ability to read fluently. I found this to be discouraging and alarming. We have lost a generation of young people who have such a limited ability to read that they cannot hope to follow their dreams of higher education. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future outlines proven success with strategies for early childhood education and social and emotional preparation for reading. We need to adopt these and all of the recommendations or we will lose another generation of young people who will be under skilled and under employed..

Charlotte Brooks  
1510 Idlewilde Ave • 21228



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm mom to a kindergartner and a future kindergartner at a Baltimore City Public School.

I want better for my own kids, but more importantly I want better for ALL kids in Maryland schools. For too long this state (and this country) has failed to serve the needs of students from poorer school districts. I will not stand by and let another generation of children fall through the cracks, while the more affluent turn away and only concern themselves with their own communities. A long-term and sustained investment in our education system will pay dividends far into the future in terms of economic development and crime reduction. Stop putting band-aids on our problems and start actually trying to systematically solve them! You won't regret it.

Jennifer Jarvis  
1126 ROLAND HEIGHTS AVE • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a retired MCPS high school media specialist.

I support the Kirwan legislation because I know that students enrolled in Pre-K do better in school. I also know that students from disadvantaged homes struggle. Kirwan offers support for both of these issues. Please vote for Kirwan.

Mary Ann Todd  
13641 Ambassador Dr • 20874





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the mother of 2 children that were in AACo public schools. One went all the way through and the other I had to switch to private bc the public school could not meet his needs which was absurd bc he has ADHD - nothing a public school should be ill equipped to address.

It is WELL past time that Maryland become a world class school system as opposed to a mediocre school system in the scheme of all US schools. We need to give ALL children the education they need and deserve and for far too long, Maryland's children of color and/or those living in poverty fall further behind. We need to help and educate all children, not punish them. We need teachers to be treated like the professionals they are. We desperately need state wide pre-K for the betterment of all individual children, especially those in need and for the future well being of the state of Maryland. How can we justify anything less than a huge investment and top priority for our education, our children, our future?

Jennifer. Haber  
634 Dunkeld Ct • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a middle school Social Studies teacher and represent the 10,000 teachers and support staff as President of the Prince George's County Educators' Association. Both of my children attended Prince George's County Public Schools.

I support the Blue Print Legislation because we must make sure that our 45 new Community Schools receive continued funding. The initial funding was for two years. We must give these schools with high concentrations of poverty the support to continue implementation.

Theresa Mitchell Dudley  
5427 Sargent Road • 20747



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent of 2 school age children and parent of 2 teachers.

I am in support of expanding career and technical education and making teacher pay equitable. Education is a number one priority for all of our futures.

Emily Jackson  
Freehold Drive, St Mary's City MD • 20686



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a father of two elementary school children in the public school system.

The class sizes are way too large to effectively teach the course material. Teacher cuts have caused many lost programs and classes at the upper levels and I am afraid the opportunities will not be there for my children when they get to middle and high school.

Wade Sewell  
Haddon Hurst Ct • 21047



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With a BS in Behavioral Disabilities, a MS in Literacy, and certification as a Wilson Language teacher of reading for students with dyslexia, I am concerned with the level of education I see here in Talbot County. I taught for over 15 years in NJ where IEPs were taken seriously as the legal documents that they are. I mentor students in Talbot County and am appalled by the level of special services delivered to classified and ESL students. One student was entering third grade as a dyslexic non-reader. With appropriate intervention by me for three years, after school and during the summer, as a volunteer, he now reads at a level close to grade level. The district has a "no homework" policy, summer reading is neither required or encouraged, and summer reading and math programs for remediation are not offered. These policies lull less educated parents to believe that everything a student needs is provided to students during the regular school day, during the September-May calendar.

Students in Maryland lag behind students in other states. High school students have modified schedules that do not require 4 years of core subjects such as Language Arts, History and Math.

Barbara Weingarden  
8192 Gatherly Circle • 21601



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I provide K-12 science outreach programs and teacher professional development for free to Baltimore City Public Schools through a program called BioEYES.

BioEYES works in over 40 schools in Baltimore City every year. As a result, I have visited the majority of schools in the city and have seen how terrible the facilities are, how few resources the classrooms have, how overworked the teachers are, and how underprepared the students are. Many students need intensive literacy support because they are 1-2 grades behind in reading. Most bathrooms I visit do not have adequate soap or toilet paper, some of the door stalls are missing or don't lock, and the toilet water is yellow. You can't drink the water from the fountains in most of the schools. It's a disgrace.

Valerie Butler  
2810 Saint Paul Street • 21218



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a retired Baltimore County Public School Teacher and a life-time member of MSEA. Teaching kindergarten was the best job I ever had. Let's be sure that students are really prepared for kindergarten by making Pre-K and 3-year-old programs available for all Maryland children!

Career preparation which is equal opportunity and NOT TRACKED is necessary to assist all Maryland highschoolers to be ready for employment, more training, or a two or four-year college when they graduate. Early childhood readiness for kindergarten and high school graduation preparedness for career or higher education are just two components of the Kirwan Legislation which are vital.

Linda Linzey  
76 Pinehurst Road • 21811



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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I am a retired physician. I work with the Experience Corps and in after school programs with children from pre-K through high school helping out with reading, math, and science. The children I work with are in Baltimore City in lower performing schools.

I see firsthand every day the benefits that this legislation would bring to lower performing schools and to our great students and hard working parents. Additional funding for smaller classroom sizes and for enhanced curricula and programs is greatly needed.

Diane Dwyer  
5702 Ainsley Garth, Baltimore • 21212





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the executive director of Side by Side, a nonprofit partnering with Prince George's schools.

This legislation is a rare opportunity to remake our public schools into top-rate institutions - improving our teacher corps, improving the readiness of our children to learn in school, improving vocational education. As a Prince George's County resident, I also want the state to better support education in areas like ours that are mostly minority.

Joe Murchison  
15808 Kerr Road • 20707



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former teacher and my 3 children were educated in the MD school system. I also have 2 grandchildren in MD schools.

Many challenges await our youth as they encounter and prepare for the challenges of life. Technology changes quickly and students need the knowledge and expertise necessary to progress in our ever changing world.

Joyce Blackwell  
19786 piney point road • 20620



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a retired Home Economics High School teacher.

I pray that every school age child is offered equitable opportunities for learning with all needed resources and acquire essential soft skills to become effective and productive citizens.

Valerie Scott-Dishroom  
3701 Chatham Rd • 21215



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a licensed clinical social worker who works in the Baltimore City Public School system.

I can see the areas that need improvement in our schools and the advantages this funding would give to the students.

Betsy Schindler  
3407 TOONE STREET • 21224



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a middle school principal in Baltimore County, and the parent of three children.

We all benefit when all schools have adequate funding.

Joshua Wolf  
Wingate Road • 21210



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I was raised in Anne Arundel County public schools, a highly respected school system, in the 1990s. I was well prepared for my college and graduate programs. I am now a parent of a 3rd grader and Kindergartner in Baltimore City Public Schools and I am actively involved weekly as a volunteer, as a School Family Council Representative, and past PTO secretary. I love our school and the students dearly but I see the effects of the school operating on a shoe-string budget, barely scraping by to meet the minimal staffing needs. I compare the experience of my children to the experience I had in Anne Arundel County public schools and to friends who send their children to private schools and the difference is vast. How can we expect the children of Baltimore City and Maryland to be set up for a lifetime of success if we can't give them an equitable education to what I received in Severna Park? Education with support networks is one of the only possible avenues for some of these students to escape the poverty and violence of this city. An investment in education can stop the pipeline to prison for many of the youth of this city and this state.

I support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. Every child deserves an education whether they come from the city or the suburbs. Schools are not equal but they could be if we invest in them. You have an opportunity to do what is just and what is fair. The current funding formula is NOT working and we must make change now.

Amalie Ward  
2411 Briarwood Rd • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of three Baltimore City school students, wife of a Baltimore City principal and have worked with Baltimore City students, teachers and schools for over 28 years.

My current work focuses on early literacy in grades K through 3rd in Baltimore City. Students who struggle need one-on-one attention and/or trained small group intervention and this requires additional funding on research-based strategies. This is true of math as well. We cannot afford continue to allow students to fall through the cracks without providing the additional help they need.

Amy Wilson  
E. Fairmount Ave. • 21231



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of two children who attend or attended Baltimore City Schools and I am a Board member at a charter public school in Baltimore.

As a parent but also in my work as a funder and now as a consultant, I have seen first hand what is possible when adults and children have the supports and resources they need to be successful. Unfortunately, far too many adults and children and schools are not getting what they need, some thrive regardless but most do not. The Blueprint lays out clearly what needs to be done, key levers that will make a huge difference for kids across the State to get the education they deserve and for our City and our State to thrive. We know what must be done. Thank you for your work to make it happen - this will be a historic and critical victory.

Lisa Kane  
194 Oakdale Rd • 21210





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the Mother of 5, Grandmother of 15, and Great-Grandmother of 6. My husband and I both attended Baltimore Public schools along with 8 of my Grand children and all 5 of my Great Grand Children.

All of my children, Grand Children, and Great Grandchildren have good jobs that support their needs. We want all of our younger generation to benefit from the kind of careers and technical education that this legislation will provide.

Sandra Bailey  
7403 Marston Road • 21207



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of 3 students in AACPS and I am an IT teacher

My kids and any future children of this district will be advanced from the tech. ed and this legislation

Wendy Chasser  
302 Buckland Court • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Hyattsville resident. Father of a two-year old girl.

My daughter, and all of the other children in this world, deserve access to a world-class education.

Daniel Broder  
3929 Madison Street • 20781



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been living in Baltimore and benefiting from its educational resources since 1971. My daughter went to neighborhood schools and to Western High School, and I got a bachelor's from The Johns Hopkins. Education is a path to a full life.

It's not possible to have an excellent educational system for cheap. It's possible to have occasional excellent teachers because they are devoted, but not a whole system. We need the Kirwan Commission's recommendations so we live up to our own potentials.

Alice Lium  
1500 Ralworth Rd. • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Mother with a daughter who will start kindergarten this Fall.

So my child, and other children in the state, will receive the education they need to successfully compete in a global economy.

Annie Stewart  
New Mark Esplanade • 20850



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My father was a principal in the Maryland school system for over 20 years. I saw how he had to make do with inadequate materials, low pay and minimum financial resources to ensure that students were prepared to become productive tax paying citizens

Students receiving an education that will prepare them for college and/or technical career will become more productive citizens of Maryland and add to Maryland's economy. It is time that the students' needs come first in Maryland as we consider what is needed to make Maryland's education system a number 1 priority. We must invest in our children and their education if we are to succeed.

Malcolm L Funn  
11740 Asbury Circle; Solomons, MD • 20688



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a student who has been in the Maryland Public School System for 17 years.

I have two younger siblings and I don't want them to struggle in school the same way I did because of lack of resources.

Aiara Manning  
2702 Marbourne Avenue • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a high school student.

I wish I had this, I want this for the future children.

Kyla-Marie James  
Kirk Ave • 21218





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a high school sophomore at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

I support this legislation for my younger cousins so that they can achieve and prosper in a fully funded and functioning school district.

Nevaeh Cooper  
3808 Copley Road • 21215



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Im a senior at Baltimore Design School

I wish this was available while i was in school. But this is important for the next generation to have

Bryce Gooden  
4916 Arabia Ave • 21214



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

As a retired educator with 42 years experience as an Allegany County teacher, building administrator and central office supervisor and administrator, I am aware of how great an impact passage of HB 1300 and SB 1000 will have on Allegany County students.

During my years in education, I have taught and witnessed many students who have gone on to college, graduated and enjoyed successful careers. However, I have also taught and witnessed many students who were not college bound, graduate from high school without the skills for even entry level positions in the 21st century workplace. Many of these students lacked the appropriate career guidance due to the high student to guidance counselor ratio and lack of career and technical education programs to meet their needs. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future addresses both of these issues as well as others that are near and dear to my heart i.e. special needs students and early childhood education. With the learning needs of every student being met through early childhood interventions and with proper career guidance these students can also have successful productive careers that will benefit society and Maryland's economy.

Karen Bundy  
108 Washington Street • 21502



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm parent of a child who graduated from Howard County Schools.

I believe all children should have access to stellar education. This legislation will help propel equality for all children.

Becki Tibaldi  
Windridge Ct., Glenwood, Md. • 21738



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I graduated from a magnet school in 2016, and I'm about to graduate from the University of Miami with a degree in Neuroscience. I also have 2 siblings in middle school.

I have 2 siblings in middle school and they deserve the best education because they are the future of America. Soon they will be driving, searching for jobs, and applying to college. It's only fair that every student receives a good and safe education.

Maxwell Wray  
1412 Thorndon drive bel air Maryland • 21015



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of a 4 1/2 year old son who is enrolled in Pre-K this year at Federal Hill Prep in Baltimore City. I am also a lawyer who has worked with disenfranchised people in Washington, DC and Baltimore for my entire 24 year legal career.

I have seen first-hand the result of a lack of investment in the education of our young people. When children feel like that are not worth the investment, they are often compelled to see their options in life as very limited.

Lydia Watts  
814 Hollins Street • 21201



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Catholic grandmother who votes, and who believes all children deserve an excellent education.

The Maryland state constitution mandates a quality education for all our children. Most of our public schools have been underfunded for decades. Systemic racism plays a role: over 40 % of black and brown children attend underfunded schools while only 8% of white students do.

As a result of this underfunding, we are failing too many of our children:

Only 39% of Maryland's 4th graders are deemed proficient or better at mathematics.

More than 60% of Maryland's graduating high school seniors can't read at a 10th-grade level or pass an Algebra 1 test.

Only 40% of today's students are ready for college or a career by graduation.

To remedy these problems, the Kirwan Commission recommends, among other things:

Expanding pre-kindergarten for all four-year-olds and career education for high schoolers and

Increasing pay and career opportunities for teachers and

Increasing state funding for schools with high concentrations of poverty.

These reforms will cost money but the state cannot afford not to educate our children. The future of our state depends on an educated workforce. Under Maryland's present regressive tax structure, the wealthy pay a lower percentage of their income in taxes than the poor do. Modernizing the tax code could pay for the proposed Kirwan changes to our public schools.

There is a growing groundswell of support for finally giving all our children, regardless of zip code, a world-class education. As Archbishop William Lori has said, "None of us should rest until every child in this City, regardless of what school they attend or where they live, has the opportunity to attend excellent, safe and well-resourced schools that meet their individual needs." I agree and strongly urge the committees to give HB1300/SB1000 a positive report.

Carol Rice

406 Northway, Baltimore • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of three children who will be in 9th, 6th and 3rd grade in the Fall.

Investing in our children is an investment in our future and our city. Personally, my children will benefit from the kind of career and technical education that this legislation provides!

Maxwell Eblaghie  
214 Paddington Rd • 21212





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of two Baltimore City Public School students.

The first PTO meeting I attended as a parent, the spring before my oldest child started in the neighborhood school, was a budget discussion. I was shocked to learn that funding was so tight the school was going to have to cut either the art teacher, music teacher, or librarian. We live in the wealthiest state in the most prosperous country in the history of the world. We shouldn't be making sacrifices like this. It's time you passed legislation to fix this problem and make Maryland's schools world-class.

Matthew Shuttz  
614 Pubped Way • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of two Baltimore City public school students.

I support Kirwan because public education funding is a social justice issue in Baltimore City.

Amani Surges Martorella  
1235 Union Ave, Baltimore • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two high school children in Baltimore City Public Schools.

My children may be graduated by the time this legislation comes to fruition, but I am invested in Baltimore City and the public schools system and believe this legislation is absolutely crucial.

Elizabeth Adams Mohan  
101 W 39th St. Apt. B1 • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of two children who will be entering 10th and 8th grade in the fall.

My children will benefit from the kind of career and technical education that this legislation provides.

Shannon Parker  
4604 Parkwood Avenue • 21206



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the mother of two Baltimore City public middle school students.

My boys will benefit from elevating the teaching profession to the high standard and respect it sorely deserves.

Kerry Langkammerer  
401 Lyman Ave • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a city resident whose family mentored a Baltimore City student and saw up close what he did not receive from the school system.

Our mentee needed a technical career track; no one saw his potential and goodness. He needed skills when he left school and he did not have them. He needed the pre-K education that is so important and the after school enrichment that those with means receive.

Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum  
2901 Boston Street • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of twin boys who will start Pre-K in the fall

This would create opportunity for my kids to broaden their education.

Devon  
Hill Street • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of 2 children, one in the Pre-K of our zoned public school and another who is 2 years old and will also attend the same school in 2 years.

My daughter's public school needs this support for its teachers who are under paid for the great work that they do everyday. We believe in Baltimore City schools and so we support them by sending our children there. My daughters, their teachers and all the school kids need this support to be successful in life.

Laura stella  
3032 St.Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21218 • 21218





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

former public school teacher

change is needed,

James Baldwin  
142 W. York Street • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent, a teacher for 15 years and a PTO Board Member.

I believe in universal PreK as an educator, I know teachers need better pay to keep the strong and best ones in the classroom, and our state needs to no longer lag behind so many others in support and funding in education!

Rachel Douglas  
2505 Eastern Ave • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of a child in the Baltimore City School system.

I can't think of a more worthy way to spend our money than on education. I have seen the school system in action for 6 years and they simply need more funding. Let us focus on quality educational opportunities for ALL students rather than constantly having to fight for scraps. Where you live shouldn't determine the quality of your education and there is no better way to invest in the future than by properly funding our education system.

Heather Hairston  
905 E Belvedere Ave / Baltimore • 21212



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of 3- ages PreK to grade 3

Expansion of PreK is good for everyone!

Kerry McCartney  
Binney Stree • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mom of 4 MCPS students (grades 10, 8, 6 and 5). I also am employed as a Kirwan paraeducator at Jackson Road ES in Silver Spring.

As a Kirwan paraeducator, I see the benefit my time with students is making everyday! I teach four, 30 minute, daily Orton-Gillingham groups to kindergarteners impacting 18 students who would not otherwise be receiving reading interventions. I also meet with 6 second grade math students for 30 minutes daily. Until I was hired, these students were not receiving any intervention support due to lack of staffing available to serve them - they are a year behind in skills! Finally, I serve 6 third graders in reading 30 minutes a day.

Cheryl Shalgian  
12602 Royal Crown Dr • 20876



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I live in a Baltimore county neighborhood where most of the children attend public schools, and I hope to someday be a parent.

The children who live in my neighborhood and wider community will benefit from educational opportunities in ways that will impact them for the rest of their lives. I want to live in a neighborhood, city, and state where children have the opportunities and resources that they need to become engaged, fulfilled individuals with skills to give back to their communities.

Paige Finkelstein  
27 Snowberry Ct • 21030



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mentor for two children living in poverty - one elementary and one middle school

My girls are behind in almost every subject and desperately need the kind of help this legislation will provide.

Kimberly Richer  
Boucher Ave • 21403



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm an entrepreneur, and educator with 14+ years of project management, strategic planning and change management experience. I've spent most of her career in education, as a teacher and in various district management roles within Baltimore City Public Schools. In 2015 I started NLD Strategic, an equity-focused management consulting firm that supports strategy development, implementation, and measurement in social impact organizations and businesses.

I have worked on initiatives over the years that touch on just about all of the recommendations included in the legislation. As a former teacher and then a leader in Baltimore City Schools, I worked on policy that sought to pay teachers more meaningfully. I believe in teachers and I know first hand how hard they work, how much they care, and want to see them prepared and paid as the consummate professionals I know they are. Additionally, I've worked to understand the experiences of former CTE students in support of The Fund for Educational Excellence 2018 study. Our students need a major overhaul in CTE. Current programs throughout the state and many states in the country are antiquated and students won't be prepared for work in this century. Maryland has a huge opportunity to implement a successful model through this legislation.

Nakeia Drummond  
9735 Eustice Road • 21133





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of a 1st grader at Hampstead Hill Academy

My daughter will greatly benefit from the technical education and choice of career that this legislation provides.

Alison Bucklin  
613 S Streeper St • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a High school student and teacher.

My daughter and all children deserve opportunities that will prepare them for the future. The kind of career and technical education this legislation provides will be a great benefit.

Monica Lindsey  
Woodward Court • 21402



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I taught 34 years in Prince George's, Charles, and St Mary's Counties Public Schools. Please give our future leaders a chance for a great education by providing Pre-K for them. Our Country's future depends on the education of our children.

Working parents need to know their children are in a great learning environment. Pre-K is one tiny step in the right direction toward their education. Great AMERICAN leaders should put education about all else. AMERICA should be First in the World in Education, at this time we are not.

Rebecca Bentoni  
17721 St Inigoes Road • 20684



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a teacher in the city schools system

The students I serve will benefit from this legislation.

Stephen Frederick I am a teacher  
306 Townleigh Rd • 21136



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

As retired Job Trainer and Safety Director of SMECO for 40 years I know how important a good education is for our work force. Education cannot begin too early and good educators can make good citizens. Good citizens are people who can support their family and contribute to their community,

For the future of our country we need early education and positive, professional teachers for our children.

Huntt Benton  
St Inigoes Road • 20684



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the father of a 3rd grader and a 5th grader in the Baltimore City school system.

My children will be prepared to think independently, read critically, write clearly, ask and answer scientific questions, and use mathematics skillfully to meet their needs. Also, they will learn, discover, and play side-by-side with their neighbors. I believe strong public schools may be the most effective way to integrate and build community. (Weak schools will do the opposite).

Stephen Berry  
5208 Springlake Way / Baltimore • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Delores

I am the mother of two adult sons who were educated in both private and public schools and the difference in the quality of education is astonishing.

I am the grandmother of seven who have been and are educated in both systems and the differences in the systems continues to be inferior from one school district to the next.

Delores A. Moore  
Latham Rd. • 21207



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been concerned for many years about the decline in the quality of education for our children.

I support this legislation because it is a very comprehensive approach to improving education for all of Maryland's children.

Lauretta Grier  
5665 Long Beach Road, Saint Leonard, Maryland 20685 • 20685





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Sandra Whitehurst

I have grandchildren, nieces, neighbors, and church members that will benefit from this kind of career and technical education. I am a retired female mathematics teacher who is proud of the young ladies who have successfully entered the technical field .

Sa dr  
1311 E. Federal St. • 21213



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have three kids in the school system.

My kids will benefit from this legislation.

Aruna Gajera  
Morningside Lane • 21043



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of two grown sons who attended school in Severna Park MD

Our children need the resources and services that this legislation will provide.

Abbie Ellicott  
682 Dill Ct. Severna Park • 21146



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two children. One is a third grader and the other is a fifth grader in Harford County.

Education needs to start coming first. We don't treat teachers as the incredible professionals that they are and our children suffer for it.

Heather Sewell  
2414 Haddon Hurst Ct • 21047



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent of 3. One child is in 5th grade and 1 will start pre-K in the fall.

I am deeply concerned about the state of the schools that they will attend. This legislation, if passed, will give our schools the resources so badly needed to be competitive. A strong education is an essential foundation for building a better Maryland. Do not delay! Please vote to fully fund our schools.

Paige Bacon  
6500 Alta ave • 21206



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm an educator of 30+ years in Maryland whose daughter graduated from a MD public high school 2 years ago.

I've been an educator at a time when MD was #1 in the country and it's imperative for the success of our future that we invest in our schools so that we return. Anything less is unacceptable. As an educator in Somerset, I know that I must meet the same rigorous qualifications as a teacher as someone in Montgomery or Anne Arundel, yet I am nowhere near compensated for meeting those requirements. Our students must meet the same graduation requirements, yet our schools have fewer resources. Passing Kirwan evens the playing field for our students with few advantages. Please invest in our students. The costs are too high for MD if we do not!

Karen Smith  
11971 Somerset Avenue • 21853



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a concerned citizen who raised 3 children and used a mixture of public and private schools. More recently I mentored a student from a Baltimore City School and I was disheartened at the low level of learning basic skills that went on with him still being passed on to the next grade. I know what a good education costs from paying for private school and I know that we have to spend more on public education to give a good education there. I also know that there are many students who do not belong in purely academic school placements, but are smart and talented and would be better served by technical training in public schools, which should be tailored to jobs that are available in the market. Also, all schooling needs to include practical skills such as how to handle a checking account, buy insurance and what that is, etc. These skills are necessary for life, but almost entirely ignored by our education system.

The Kirwin study is a well reasoned and serious plan the function of which is to improve education in this country. We are falling behind other countries. It is time we make paying for truly important things a priority and stop funding wealthy corporations with tax cuts and loopholes that create few jobs and mostly further gross income inequality in our Country.

Harold Weisbaum  
2901 Boston Street, Unit 211 • 21224



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mother of a 3rd grader and a kindergartner

My children need the kind of education this legislation will provide to grow into adults who can help solve problems in our ever-changing technology society and environmental issues.

Amanda Korpon  
Hyden Court • 21047





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a teacher (both gen ed and special ed) in Howard County Schools for 28 years.

As a teacher, it is my job is to provide the best education I can for every child I teach! I put my heart and soul into everything I do. The amount of money I spend out of my own pocket, to buy items for my classroom is exorbitant. This is because our schools are totally underfunded. When resources and funding continue to be cut and class sizes continue to be increased EVERY CHILD in the state of Maryland suffers! Make no mistake currently Maryland's educational system is BROKEN! When my hands are tied, due to understaffing for significantly challenged special ed students again, EVERY CHILD in the class SUFFERS! It is said that "children are our greatest resource " they truly are "our future". If we don't provide outstanding education during their formative years, we will pay for it in the end. I am begging you to fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's future. I have done my job, I am now asking you to do yours!

Susan Toler  
Manordale Lane, Ellicott City • 21042



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have two kids who will be in 5th and 1st grades in the fall.

All kids in City Schools will benefit from eliminating chronic funding shortfalls by fully implementing the Kirwan recommendations.

Nick Funk  
None • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a former middle school Spanish teacher living and working in Baltimore City.

I believe that all children deserve a high-quality education. This legislation will ensure that school districts are equitably funded, thus supporting all students across the state.

Micaela Perez Ferrero  
S Ellwood Avenue • 21224



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent of a R"CV student and will also have two other grandchildren in the system next year.

My grandchildren will benefit from the kind of career and technical education that this legislation provides.

Chata Raye K Smith  
Pecan Drive • 20853



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a current Baltimore city public school 1st grader, Pre-K, and a two year old.

My children will benefit from this legislation- and legislation such as this increases the likelihood that families will choose to stay in the city contributing to a vibrant, family oriented city.

Anat Gimburg  
511 s hanover st • 21201



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a longtime Baltimore City resident and raised my family here. I love this city and this state.

An investment in our children is an investment in their lives and the future and vitality of Maryland. We must do far better for our children if we are to make the positive changes we seek.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways.

When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Miriam Lupien  
324 Saint Dunstons Road • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have two kids graduated from MCPS

I want children have the opportunity to explore the tech world.

Grace  
19401 Crystal Rock Dr, Germantown • 20874



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a retired Special Educator and an education advocate.

Maryland's children have benefitted from our high standards for education over generations. To continue to provide the needed services and programs for our children, and to prepare the next generation with the tools needed to meet the demands of the future we need this comprehensive approach to funding.

Bonnie Bricker  
Park Forest Circle • 21075





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a school social worker in Baltimore City, and the parent of two children in Baltimore County Public Schools.

I support this legislation because of the funding it will provide for mental health and support services for immigrant and English Learner students. The students I work with in Baltimore City have suffered so much in their home countries and in the journey to get to the United States, and face so many barriers in accessing an education here in Baltimore. This legislation will allow for more social workers to support the refugee, immigrant and English Learner populations who so desperately need more help!

Eric Haber  
7108 Bristol Road • 21212



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mother of a special needs child in 5th grade

So that children can receive the education they deserve.

Dianne Henry  
Flowerstock Row • 21045



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the parent of two children who are currently enrolled in 10th and 7th grades in Prince Georges County public schools.

I support this legislation because Maryland needs to address the systemic inequities that are long established within the school systems statewide and this legislation will begin to value teachers as the professionals that they are and expected to be.

Christine Williams  
4001 Ingraham Street • 20781



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a special education paraeducator in Montgomery County elementary schools for seven years. I have worked with students with autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, Down syndrome, emotional disabilities, seizure disorders, vision impairments, and other conditions.

The reasons I support this bill are very simple:

- 1) There are not enough people who want to be teachers.
- 2) People will do a job if they feel they are valued for it.
- 3) Institutions show what they value by how they spend money.

If we want to convince talented people to become teachers, then Maryland needs to show how much it values education by spending money to improve it.

Alex Poetzschke  
12308 Triple Crown Road, North Potomac, MD • 20878



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two daughters who are in 3rd and 5th grade at their zoned public school, the Mount Washington School, in Baltimore City. I personally attended public school in Baltimore County from 2nd grade through high school graduation. I believe that public education is important to my family and to the stability of our neighborhoods and our city.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways.

When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

Kathryn Vaeth  
5704 Ranny Road • 21209



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Baltimore City resident and parent of a 10th grader and 8th grader. They have attended BCPSS their entire lives.

Our children deserve the best possible education. Updating the physical structures and technology is essential to their opportunity to learn and grow intellectually and emotionally.

Elizabeth Saylor  
5017 Roland Ave #2 Baltimore MD 21210 • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a middle school teacher in Baltimore City.

My students have so much potential, and this legislation will ensure they receive the education they are worthy and deserving of. It's time to give all students real access to a high-quality education.

Maryrose Hembd  
31 Ironwood Court, Rosedale, MD 21237 • 21237



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a paraeducator in my own home school for 22 years.

Times are changing. The home/school model has dramatically changed the dynamics of the school I love. Funding is required to keep up with the ever intensifying needs of these children. Please support funding for paraeducators.

Suzanne Hickey  
5208 Gretchen Street • 20895





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two children - one in 4th grade and one in 8th grade.

These children are our future society. We need to provide the best resources and our schools are struggling to meet all the kid's needs.

Kathy Osborne  
Hobnail Court • 21045



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two children in Prince George's County Public School System, a 6th grader and an 11th grader. Over the past 11.5 years, I have served in many volunteer roles including elementary school PTA President, middle school PTSO President, and a member of the PGPCS Board of Education Parent and Community Advisory Council. I am also an active member of the Prince George's County Advocates for Better Schools.

As I have become more engaged in the public school system over the past 10-12 years, I have seen more and more how the inequity in the system impacts our community. It is heartbreaking as a parent leader to hear the stories from fellow parents struggling to get their kids proper support for IEPs and 504s, or working to move them from schools with inadequate facilities, or praying for a lottery slot because they think that will give their child a better chance. I support them as best as I can, sharing my knowledge or school policies and central office staff, but even the CEO and Board of Education members are limited when they simply do not have the funding to support everything our children need. This is particularly acute in neighborhoods with high poverty or high concentrations of English Language Learners. All children in Maryland deserve a high quality education. That means all children deserve access to early childhood education and early intervention programs. All children need school counselors and proper mental health support. All children need opportunities to find a college or career path that suits them. Children are not data points to be merely tracked and pushed along to graduation. For the state of Maryland to thrive, we need to ensure a bright future for students of all races, colors, genders and socioeconomic levels, and that starts with insuring equity in our public school funding.

Lori Morrow  
Tallow Lane • 20715



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a para for special ed, and a grandmother of 4 in that are in K, 3rd, 9th and 12th.

I think my grandchildren will benefit from this technical education.

Monica Sewell  
18008 BRANCHWOOD LANE • 20860



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Strong School Maryland member. For several years I have volunteered at Gaithersburg Elementary School one day a week to assist second graders who need additional reading support.

The second grade students I am working with would have benefited from pre-K school and additional resources for them and their families. Some have never been to the museums on the mall or the zoo. Some come to school hungry on Monday. At some homes no English is spoken. Others come to school afraid they will be deported. The holistic approach recommended in the Blueprint is essential for the student's personal development and the future economy of Maryland. Better pay and training for teachers will attract even better teachers and instill a life long desire for learning in more students. More trade school education is needed as for many students college is not the ideal or preferred path. Fully funding the BluePrint recommendations must be the highest priority of every legislator.

Trip Rothschild  
11921 Gainsborough Road • 20854



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Parent of child starting pre-K

My child will benefit from this kind of career and technical education that this legislation provides

Angela Lopresti  
1328 south Hanover st • 21230



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a sign language interpreter and have been working for MCPS for 12 years.

I have interpreted for students, grades k-12, many who have come to the county with no language at all. While it is not my job to teach the children, it is my job to facilitate communication and it is rewarding to see them make progress. Many though, struggle all the way through their school years and struggle to write sentences and read. I do see staff working diligently to bridge the gap, but many still fall through the cracks. I also see time that is spent on trying to work with students with behavior issues. While all students deserve equal education, how equitable is it that one student disrupts the learning of so many others?

All children will benefit from this legislation. There should be opportunities for all, academic, career and technical education included.

Vicki Brown  
P.O. Box 343 • 20777



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I volunteer in the Baltimore City Public Schools

This legislation will provide the much needed resources needed to support the amazing job teachers are doing.

Beverly Randall  
8306 Charmel Drive • 21244



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am an employee who has worked in MCPS for 16 years as Special Ed Support, Data analyst and testing support and writing support.

I fully 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.

As I said earlier, I am an employee who has worked in MCPS for 16 years as Special Ed Support, Data analyst and testing support and writing support. I have seen children come into their current grade levels years behind and had to work extremely hard to improve. We are currently seeing a reading and writing deficiency like none before and we need to do something about it. Our current system is letting thousands of students fall through the cracks and we are releasing them to a world that they are not prepared for.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for students in Maryland because it provides resources that are essential to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the direction of struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so more children will not reach adulthood without the ability to read.

Blueprint allocates resources more equally to students who need them most. The plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy.

Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Rick Bergmann  
8 Center Street • 20723





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Parent of 3 MCPS graduates (2 are teachers). Grandparent to an incoming K student. Teacher, then Sub for Many years and now a Special Education Paraprofessional.

Our school children need more funding for technology and smaller class sizes with more support personnel and longer hours for support staff to help close the gaps in learning.

Catherine Obendorfer  
21521 Manor View Circle in Germantown • 20876



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Youth Arts Education & Leadership organization

Serving for over 16 years, We have seen the benefits of this type of access positively impact lives of youth.

Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center  
1120 N. Charles St. • 21201



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a public high school English teacher in Montgomery County Maryland. I have been teaching high school students for over 15 years.

I support this legislation because continuing the function of the Composition Assistant or ECAS is essential for the smooth operation of my English classes. Not only does the ECA play a vital role in helping to provide feedback and guidance on essays and narratives students write for the class, but the ECA, Kate Simpson, is essential in her instructional assistance in our classes with high percentage of IEPs, 504s and FARMS. She coaches individual students, returns students to on task work, assists students with writing, identifying argument, and lifting students who are feeling down. She is a counselor, teacher, aid, editor, proofreader, confidant, and advisor all in one. I cannot run my H English 11 class without her.

Catherine Byrne  
14322 Yosemite Court Rockville MD 20853 • 20853



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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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I am a World Language Department Chair, IB French Teacher, parent and product of Baltimore City Public Schools.

I became a teacher to help students from my city and through the years, I have seen the effects of financial neglect on our students' abilities to have adequate resources or opportunities found in other districts. Passing this legislation will give the much-needed finances to renovate our buildings, purchase resources and staff our teams properly.

Monica Jefferson  
3813 Terka Circle • 21133



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a Special Education Paraeducator in Montgomery County, MD.

Our school is understaffed and our current budget doesn't cover basic needs for the year.

Edmund Cleary  
13909 Congress Drive • 20853



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Grandparent of eight, former MADD CEO

We have allowed generation after generation to be locked into poverty. We must break the cycle!

Chuck Hurley  
5 Park Place, #731 • 21401



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a community member who is concern about our children's education

I think that our children's education should be a priority.

Edith Gilliard  
1321 W Saratoga St • 21223



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent who sent my daughter to the Baltimore City Schools through 8th grade & the grandparent of a student in the 10th grade at a Baltimore City high school.

For the last 7 years I have volunteered at an elementary school in E. Baltimore. We have noticed that the reading level of the students has declined during that time. When we first started the majority of the 4th graders were reading at grade level. Now the majority are reading below grade level. This legislation will ensure that the students will get the services they need to be successful.

Roberta Van Meter  
Clipper Park Rd. • 21211





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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a teacher in Prince George's County schools. I have taught in elementary and middle school for the last 20 years.

We need you to pass the Kirwan commission so that all of our students will have a quality education. We desperately need new schools buildings for our students. That would allow for us to have smaller classes so students can learn and teachers can teach. Right now, there are many schools over capacity and it presents a challenge for everyone. I am currently a teacher at Charles Carroll Middle School in Prince George's County. Our building is over 100% capacity. We have 16 temporary buildings outside. Not only is this not an acceptable learning environment for our students but this presents a real safety hazard. Students who are in temporary buildings are a "soft" target for shooters and for individuals who may prey on school buildings. Additionally, Many of the schools are wrought with health problems such as mold, unclear drinking water and lead. After complaints and an outcry from the community, my school was recently condemned by the board of elections as a voting precinct. If this school is not good enough for voters than it certainly is not good enough for our children who are the future generation.

We need Kirwan to pass so that we have the funding for special services such as community schools. Many of the students come with emotional trauma that impacts their learning. Teachers are not equipped to address all of the social and emotional problems that students have. These issues then present behavior problems in the classroom. I fully support community schools so that we can address the whole child. This approach to teach the whole child is critical to making sure students are ready to learn.

Kirwan needs to pass so that we can pay teachers more. Teachers salaries are still lagging behind other professionals with the same level of education and experience. Many teachers are leaving the profession within the first 5 years because the pay is not adequate for the ever increasing workload. Teachers are expected to do more and more and the salary is not commensurate with the level of paperwork, testing, and overall workload. The state of Maryland has also reduced the amount they contribute to retirement system. So as a result teachers are now expected to close the gap by contributing more money.

For all these reasons and more we need to pass the Kirwan commission this year. Our schools are severely underfunded in Maryland. We can not afford to continue to underfund our schools. If we want an educated workforce in the future, we must invest in education today!!!

Monica Roebuck  
3313 Mont Clare Lane Bowie • 20715



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a rabbi and leader of Bolton Street Synagogue, a Jewish congregation in Baltimore with many students of all ages.

I see how many of our students are challenged by the small amount of resources in our city and in our state. They will benefit by safer buildings, more resources, and increased teaching staff to help navigate a better future.

Rabbi Andy Gordon  
3906 Cloverhill Rd, • 21210



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I worked with students for the past 13 years. Also, both my own kids graduated from MCPS. I really think, support service deserves any monetary incentive. The cost of living is getting higher and is almost impossible to pay bills.

Everyone will benefit from this, specially support service that are working so hard and want to continue with their education as well.

Eliana Alegre  
207 Cork Tree Ln. Rockville MD • 20850



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mother of three, two of whom are in a public Baltimore city elementary school and one who will start in three years.

I am lucky to have found an excellent public elementary school in Baltimore with extremely dedicated teachers and administrators, but see how much the school struggles to fund essential staff and services.

Attia Goheer  
219 Paddington Rd • 21212



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of two children who are in 3rd and 6th grades in PGCPs. My children have only ever been educated in PGCPs and while both are TAG-identified, it is not a helpful designation as the advanced instruction is nonexistent at the elementary school level, and in passing at the middle school.

Maryland has touted itself as a world-class education state, but this is inaccurate. It is extraordinarily important that we support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, to give a proper foundation to the education of our children. Beyond the Talented and Gifted Program that I referenced, our children need safe learning spaces with classrooms that are not so packed to render instruction fruitless. We also need children who are learning and not being taught to the test. Finally, we need mechanisms to identify and address those children who are struggling to learn in a traditional school setting without sacrificing learning opportunities for those who are on target or more advanced than their peers.

Joanne Wilson  
Viser Court, Bowie, MD • 20715



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My two adult children attended and graduated from MCPS, and now my grandchild attends 1st grade at an MCPS school. I have worked for MCPS for over 25 years and am currently an English Composition Assistant.

My grandson needs the kind of career and technical education that this legislation provides.

Bonnie Gonsalves  
12003 Leatherbark Way, Germantown, Md. • 20874



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of two children that have completed school at MCPS.

The Blueprint for MD's future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for MD's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in MD receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling. so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again. For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

April Strumpf  
17324 Buehler Road Olney, MD • 20832



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have worked for MCPS as a Home and Hospital Instructor, Math Paraeducator, Substitute Teacher, Dual Enrollment Program Assistant, and currently, an English Composition Assistant. In addition, both my children graduated from Montgomery County Public Schools.

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 high performing educational systems around the world.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Christine Aaron  
5205 Gretchen Street • 20895





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

As a Maryland taxpayer for the past 33 years.

I am proud of living in a state that values learning. I am currently a support staff in a high school English Dept. where I support struggling learners on a daily basis within the classroom and providing one on one assistance during lunch period. This resource is critical to the students' success - be it a freshman who is struggling with grammar skills or comprehension, or a senior who needs help with a college essay. I am there for them. I support House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000 ( Blueprint for Maryland's Future) because it expands career technical education, which is critically missing as an option for many students, and because it provides funding for school support staff for struggling learners.

Laura Prizzi  
18528 Cape Jasmine Way, Gaithersburg, MD • 20879



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a long term resident of the Ednor Gardens/Lakeside community and grandmother of two children attending Baltimore City Public Schools.

As an active member of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation, and leader of the Cathedral Strong Schools MD team, I am writing in support of passage and full funding of the Kirwan Commission recommendations. Over 100 Cathedral members recently gathered for our 2020 Annual Meeting, participating in extensive small group discussion about Social Justice. Surveyed on their priorities from a list of issues, the top three areas of concern were clearly: Education/literacy, Hunger/poverty and Racism. Education topped the list, chosen by 67 participants. And clearly, educational equity addresses all three of our top concerns. Our members are following your efforts closely. Thank you for your work to fully fund "Kirwan" this year.

Joan Stanne  
904 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218 • 21218



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a 7th grader at Mt.Washington Elementary and Middle School. I am 13 years old and i am very active in the community. I play soccer and i do theater.

My friend and I will benefit from this education and our future with this legislation. It is very important for our future careers and school choices.

Jack Harburger  
5800 Greenspring Avenue • 21209



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020**

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been an English Composition Assistant at Northwest HS in Germantown, MD for over 20 years. Montgomery county, a highly respected school system, has a problem with letting students (all grades) to pass on to each grade if they cannot read. I have helped so many students many of whom are 12th graders, who could not read at all. They have been allowed to participate in school for 12 years and can not read! Any system that allows children to participate in 12 years of school without ever developing reading proficiency is intolerable and undemocratic. I am also a grandmother of a 2nd grader and a 4th grader in the Montgomery school system, and this really, really concerns me.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again. Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need the most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

Diane Levy  
13500 Champions Way, Germantown, MD • 20874



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

As a former teacher in different systems, I can attest to the difference that sufficient and reasonably directed resources can make to the educational experience of children.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) paves a way for Maryland to provide the future that our students need and deserve. By implementing the interventions identified and supporting the educational process for students throughout the state, the Blueprint will ensure that resources are targeted to produce successful outcomes. This educational support is necessary for Maryland's future, and our legislators should be aware that their constituents regard this bill as one that is vital to our communities. As a constituent, I can also attest that I am willing to take on an additional tax burden to make sure that our students have these educational opportunities - and I say that as a senior citizen with no specific connection to local schools. Our future depends upon an educated citizenry.

Laura McShane  
1111 Park Avenue, Baltimore • 21201



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a grandparent and a tutor for elementary school children in Baltimore City.

My grandchildren are fortunate to have parents who went to college and who are able to provide quality education to their children and I delight in hearing the stories of their successes in school! The students whom I tutor in Baltimore City are not so fortunate but are just as deserving of a good education and the rewards to their families, themselves and their communities of career success. These students whom I tutor in Baltimore City would have greatly benefited from the preschool services that this legislation provides, services which would have provided early reading and writing interventions such that they could have started first grade prepared to succeed in school. Furthermore the technical education and career options provided by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will support their successful entry into the Maryland workforce with preparedness which fits their goals and abilities. How many potential American high achievers in commerce, government and social service are we failing to equip with the education they need to improve their own lives and our state? Please fully fund the Blueprint for all our children. Our future and our children are depending on you.

Becca Gardner  
3145 E Nobles Mill Rd Darlington MD 21034-1614 • 21034



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a high school English teacher in Montgomery County.

The ECAs at my school are invaluable to the growth of teachers and students. Not only do they support teachers with many tasks that are necessary to keep up with the workload in our very crowded school, they also help us teach skills and send out updates on new articles and research of interest. They have taken it upon themselves to organize celebrations of grad school completions, births, birthdays, and more.

Elizabeth Specter  
5401 McGrath Boulevard • 20852



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the Founder and Executive Director of Imagination Stage, Bethesda, Maryland. I am also the mother of two children, and the grandmother of three - all Maryland residents.

I am a lifelong supporter of the arts in education. I hope that these funds will include funds for experiential learning - especially through the arts.

Bonnie Fogel  
8804 Melwood Road • 20817





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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the father of two children in elementary school.

We owe it to our children to provide them the best education possible. Education is the path forward to creating a talented workforce that will propel our country into the decades to come.

Nathan Cost  
5717 Chaudiere Drive • 21784



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class pre-k-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a volunteer for both pre-k and kindergarten classes for one of our local elementary schools. I have seen first-hand the tremendous impact of early exposure to education. I have seen children begin pre-k with little or no verbal skills - and after only a very few months are able to communicate in a brief sentence. I have seen children come in with behavior problems; and with much love and special attention discover that they actually enjoy class activities such as learning to write their name, painting, sing-a-longs, and socializing with the other children. I have watched with wonder as they have learned the need to share and be courteous towards one another. I have watched the glee and the proud look on their faces when they have been told they have done a great job. This legislation will allow this to continue - perhaps even on a larger, more broader scale.

I fully support this legislation because it will give ALL children an opportunity to establish a good foundation. A foundation that can be built upon each day, each week, each month, each year. In addition, I have a special interest in seeing that our children, who unfortunately come to school with un-identified problems, will have an avenue to share their feelings and anxieties with a trusted professional. I once heard a highly respected teacher say, "Every Kid Deserves Somebody" Four little words with such a powerful meaning. For the sake of our children and our future, I urge full support for this legislation.

Lelia M. Reed  
8195 Heron Lane • 20657



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Baltimore County grandparent, a former Baltimore County teacher, and a retired clinical social worker.

My grandson deserves the kind of quality education my children had in Towson -- and children in less affluent areas deserve it, too. If we expect to have a knowledgeable and competent workforce -- and people who can participate effectively in our political system -- we need to fully fund public education.

Betsy Amey  
1205 Stevenson Lane, Towson • 21286



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a leader of both Together We Will Baltimore Area with over 4000 members and the Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland schools are in seriously in need of physical rehabilitaion especially in Baltimore City and County. There needs to be an equitable distribution of funding across jurisdictions. For years, Maryland has funded public education in a regressive manner, allocating resources to jurisdictions inequitably. This has resulted in some jurisdictions with students who face significant non-academic and academic barriers to learning being underfunded while jurisdictions with less severe student need receiving funds above and beyond their respective requirements. Students, families, and communities in every jurisdiction of Maryland stand to benefit from the passage of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations into law.

Edward L. R. Johnson  
6314 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD • 21209



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Parent of a Pre-k 4 student at Robert Goddard Montessori School and another that will likely attend in two years, when she is old enough. I am also the product of a Maryland education having graduated from Bel Air High School in 1998.

My child was blessed to have been picked in a lottery to attend his school, and I believe every child in Maryland should have access to the same level of high quality pre-K that he does. I also received an excellent education in Maryland myself and would not have had the success in life that I have had without the great teachers I had growing up. Those teachers make our state great and deserve to be treated with appropriate salaries that keep up with the times.

Joseph Jakuta  
4113 29th Street • 20712



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I am the parent of 2 Baltimore City Public School students (grades 4 and 7). We are committed to public schools and know what an excellent education they provide. I am also a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, a member of our school's School Family Council, a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and a member of the Leadership Team at an overnight camp. I understand the value of a strong education that helps children to learn and practice critical thinking and exposes them to different points of view, knowledge, and opportunities.

My children and their friends and classmates deserve a high quality education in schools that have well-compensated teachers, sufficient social workers and school counselors, adequate heating and cooling, and the necessary supplies and equipment to learn. This legislation enables all of this and much more.

Deborah Harburger  
5800 Greenspring Avenue • 21209



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a School Nurse

I am a School Nurse and I know that the children I care for every day will benefit from this type of education assistance.

sandra weinstein RNBSN  
663 mallard ct • 21012



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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I am the husband of a retired MCPS math resource teacher, the brother of an award-winning retired MCPS Head Start teacher, the father of an MCPS math resource teacher, and an FCPS/MCPS high school math and science substitute teacher. Our two children and two of our five grandchildren have graduated from MCPS schools, and our other three grandchildren have or are MCPS students.

The city of New York invested in my education, from kindergarten through college. I would like to see this kind of investment made for ALL Maryland students. HB/SB 1300 is a large step in this direction.

George Gluck  
4848 Sweetbirk Drive, Rockville • 20953





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a long-term advocate here in PGCPD and proud parent of a son in the Spanish Immersion program and 4 year old daughter preparing to enter the program next school year. The Prince George's County Public school district needs additional funding to support improved instruction of its well rounded curriculum. We need to close the achievement gaps now.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

Delores Millhouse  
5216 Derby Manor Lane • 20772



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the mother of two children, both of whom attended public schools from primary through high school. One graduated last year and is a freshman in Boston. The other is in 10th grade at Oakland Mills High School.

I support this legislation because our economy will not flourish and our democracy will not survive if we turn our back on other people's children and decide that a child's education should depend on how much money his or her parents have. Investing in ALL the children in Maryland makes all of us better off.

Liz Kato  
7335 Carved Stone • 21045



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Museum Educator and mom (who would love for her children to be taught in the public system)

Our children deserve a full and vibrant education that supports a life long love of learning. The future of our country (and state) depends on our youth being supported leading the future through emotional growth and intellectual challenge. A well rounded education is the foundation of a well lived life. Increasing funding for education is money well spent! A well educated child has a better chance of avoiding the criminal justice system and long term independence. Please help support a healthy and strong future Maryland!

Keondra Prier  
2337 Eutaw Place • 21217



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of a five-year-old who will attend kindergarten at our local elementary school in the fall.

Because I want my child and all children in Maryland to have access to an excellent education that supports them in learning to their fullest capacities and nurtures their natural interest in learning.

Erin Nortrup  
4008 29th St. Mount Rainier, MD • 20712



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am an English Composition Assistant (ECA) from Wheaton High School.

ECAs are a critical component of support to students and English teachers in MCPS high schools. Our jobs should be ensured through proper funding outlined in the legislation. The most important job we do is work one-on-one with struggling students on their writing assignments. Students receive instruction as a group, but, for those who need extra help, ECAs can help them make significant progress in developing their writing (and thinking) skills. We also offer important assistance to seniors on their college application essays. This isn't only important for college admissions, but as an exercise for them to practice telling their life stories, setting goals, and articulating a clear vision for their futures. In addition to this critically important job, ECAs also support English teachers in other ways, such as book check-outs and returns and maintaining an orderly bookroom. The very last thing teachers should be doing is managing the book management process. Their expertise is needed in the classroom. At our school, we keep an accurate inventory of books through the use of a database to ensure that we don't spend money needlessly replacing books students never returned. We also support teachers in other ways: restocking supplies, processing and logging new book orders, assisting in research from time to time on specific projects, helping students with Bridge projects, and test proctoring. It also must be said that the skill levels of ECAs are very high for support personnel. Most were writers, editors, and educators in other ways before joining the school system. We have had Pulitzer-prize nominated journalists and part-time college professors who work as ECAs. But, most importantly, all ECAs seem to have one thing in common; they are compassionate people who wish to help students succeed.

Leslie Atkin  
10101 E. Bexhill Drive, Kensington, MD • 20895



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Have been a civil rights and community advocate and educator for over 40 years.

All students, especially minority and poor, will benefit from the education proposals in the bill.

Barbara Dezmon  
9445 Ashlyn Cir • 21117



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the proud parent of a middle schooler who attends Parkland MS in Montgomery County. I am also and MCPS employee, currently the ITSS at Wheaton High School, and I've worked in schools at all points on the socioeconomic spectrum so I've seen the affects of school funding on different schools where I've worked.

If your student attends a school with a wealthy PTA/PTSA or a foundation, your student and her teachers will benefit from the tools needed in the classroom and in the school. If your student attends a school which is heavily impacted by poverty your school will struggle to meet all of the needs of the school and staff. Schools impacted by poverty do receive enhanced federal funding, but they do not have the level of support wealthier schools can provide. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future seeks to provide for the needs of all students, in all counties, across all socioeconomic circumstances. Maryland must invest in our future and those of our students. I urge strong support of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and of other legislation to support building schools where they are needed.

Oriole Saah  
12501 VALLEYWOOD DR • 20906



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Parent of one kindergarten student in PGPCS school and a second who will start in 2022

Maryland schools - especially PG schools - are in crisis. Accountability to ensure that adequate money for schools goes where it is supposed to is critical! I want to see better trained and better paid teachers with adequate supports for schools with needier students. We have the means to send out children to private school but have chosen public school because we believe in the system but the current status of public schools in PG and MD generally is just not acceptable.

Debbie Van Camp  
5719 39th Ave • 20781





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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of two graduates from Paint Branch HS in Montgomery County. I am also an English Composition Assistant at a high school in Montgomery County. I have spent the last 30 years advocating for education and children in Maryland.

Equitable funding for education is critical for the future of our state and country. An educated populace is the best way to improve everyone's life. Citizens that are educated will be better able to participate in all aspects of our society and earn a wage to support their families.

An often overlooked critical component to education success for our students is support staff. Everyday, we help teachers in classrooms of 30 students reach each individual student and help make a difference in educational outcomes. Along with paraeducators, English Composition Assistants help students with one on one instruction and enable teachers to work with students in small groups for personalized instruction. This greatly improves success for our students!

Patricia Twigg  
1100 Netherlands Ct • 20905



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a papeducator who has worked for Montgomery County Public Schools for 23 years.

I believe that teachers and students should get the support they are asking for. For now and for their futures.

Elizabeth Leo  
125 Fairfield Dr. • 21702



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a student in Baltimore City Schools, now in 9th grade.

I support this legislation for improvements of schools throughout Maryland and Baltimore City. We have experienced school closings for days due to lack of air conditioning and lack of heating in the old buildings, desperately in need of repairs and updates. In addition, my daughter has experienced teachers with lack of preparation for middle school teaching. She informed me that one year, her teacher cried almost every day and then quit with only 3 weeks left of school. Then my daughter had to make up an entire year's worth math due to the lack of teaching from this teacher. The additional funding would allow for improvements to the school buildings as well as improvements in teacher preparedness and accountability.

Marissa Feinsilver  
5613 Pimlico Rd • 21209



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have 2 children (5th and 2nd grades) in the Baltimore Public School system.

It is time to put an end to the perennial underfunding of public schools, especially in urban areas.

Eleanor Frias  
609 Edgevale Road • 21210



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a pediatrician and mother of 4. Two children are in Elementary School and one is in Middle School in Prince George's County MD.

All children in the state of Maryland will benefit but especially those in lower income and lower performing areas. Our children deserve this. They need to be competitive in the global community. They need to be prepared for higher education, vocational training and the future.

Adrienne Collier  
Overchase Lane • 20715



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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a special ed paraeducator for the past 20 years in Montgomery County Maryland.

I have worked for 10 years in elementary school and 10 years in high school for Montgomery County Schools. I feel that there are many students in high school close to graduation that can't read and many others that have real deficits in their reading comprehension. Students are falling through the cracks and not getting the help that they need and desire. It is a tragedy that this is going on.

Barbara Davis  
4416 Winding Oak dr. Olney, md. 20832 • 20832



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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
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I am a parent of two children currently in MCPS and one who has graduated. I have been employed by MCPS both as a school counselor and as a media assistant. My husband is also a teacher in MCPS for 27 years. My brother and two of my sister-in-laws also work for MCPS.

All students will benefit from this legislation by allotting more resources necessary to help them be successful. Also, educators (professional and para professional) will benefit. Currently, it is very difficult to live in Montgomery County with our rate of pay. If teachers and para-educators are paid commensurate with their worth, all stakeholders involved in education will benefit.

Jamie Nazzaro  
Briars Road • 20833



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm working for MCPS as a Media Assistant and had 3 children going through MCPS

I'm hoping that this legislation will improve the level of Education in Maryland and bring us to have more resources for our schools. I'm also looking for more money because the support staff salaries are not enough to live in Maryland.

Catherine  
18741 Blue Violet Lane Gaithersburg MD • 20879





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I am a step-mother to 5th grader and mother to a toddler who will be starting kindergarten in 2023.

All children need options when learning. By offering college preparedness, technical education, vocational training, etc. all children can find a path that works best for them. Additionally, more funding will mean more consistent schools. I like the elementary school in my area, the middle-school is okay but I am very unhappy with the high school's performance. So much so that my husband and I are considering a move just so we can ensure our children have the best possible education. With this legislation, we are not expecting magic overnight, but realize this can help make EVERY Maryland school a good school and not just "ok" or a school we cannot send our children to learn in a positive and safe environment.

Robin Troy  
4005 Welsley Lane • 20715



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I'm librarian of 30+ years

Our economic future is dependent on an educated population. Technical, financial, social and basic literacy creates a well-rounded individual with critical thinking skills. That is what we must have in Maryland.

ClaireAgnes Doerrman  
1631 Park Ave. • 21217



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I have been a special education and regular education paraeducator for 5 years serving students from kindergarten to fifth grade. Many of the students I work with struggle with reading. Any system that allows children to participate in 12 year of school without ever developing reading proficiency is intolerable and undemocratic.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources necessary to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. The Blueprint will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early, and throughout a child's schooling, so no child will enter adulthood suffering from illiteracy again.

Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success with the expansion of career and technical education pathways. When we fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not only will Maryland schools move from mediocre to world-class, we will provide a blueprint for the nation as well.

For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Leigh Ross  
Campbell Farm Rd. • 20837



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I'm an educator

My students need up-to-date equipment for their classroom. I need extra money to buy materials for them. We cannot expect high-class results without high-class equipment.

Ruth Rhone  
10789 Kitchener Court • 29721



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm grandparent of a child in first grade in Baltimore City, and the parent of two graduates, one from Baltimore City College and the other from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. .

It is time to put education front and center in Maryland: to ensure that all children have a fighting chance for a better future. Particularly in Baltimore City, we need to keep our kids engaged in pursuing opportunities that will elevate them in settings that support them. Far too many experience childhoods engulfed in trauma. They need and are deserving of EVERYTHING we can provide.

Malissa Ruffner  
4425 Harcourt Rd. • 21214



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I am a special education para-educator who for the past 10 years has served special education students in elementary, middle and high schools throughout Montgomery County Maryland. I currently provide math support for special education students in high school. Even at the high school level I have worked with students who have passed multiple math classes, earning credits toward graduation, without even being able to add or subtract single digit numbers. I think it is utterly unacceptable that so many special education students are simply passed along without mastering much if any of the curriculum; not because they are not capable, but because adequate resources are not provided to meet their needs.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the requisite resources to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world class education. We currently have para-educators co-teach four or five different subject areas - Biology, Physics, Geometry, English - all in one day. We co-teach with five or more different different teachers each day. Meanwhile, we are given only 15 minutes during our work day outside of the classroom. That is 15 minutes to check e-mails, do clerical work, review material for multiple subject areas, meet and plan with five or more different teachers, review IEPs, develop strategies to meet the needs of IEP students, find and prepare materials, and many other duties.

Needless to say it is humanly impossible to accomplish all of this in 15 minutes a day. We have para-educators who are spending two to three hours a day reviewing materials for their classes, at home and off the clock. If an administrator asked an employee to do this, it would be blatantly illegal (unpaid labor) and a violation of our contract. Instead it is considered legal because the para-educator does so allegedly voluntarily. The reality is there is no other way to meet the needs of our students because sufficient staffing and hours is simply not being allocated.

The end result is two-fold. The needs of students in special education are chronically not met. And the most talented and dedicated workers are pushed into other fields that will fairly reward their efforts, resulting in a brain and talent drain on the school system. It is not just for our students, nor the workers who serve them.

Fully funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will represent a huge first step in correcting this grave inequity.

Nathan Feinberg  
Vandalia Dr. • 20853



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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I am a grandparent of a child who will start kindergarten in the fall. I am also a retired assistant teacher for Baltimore County Public School and know first hand how important it is to invest in the children of Maryland.

I support the Blue Print for Maryland's Future legislation because ALL children in Maryland deserve a world class education not just those in affluent communities. This legislation will guarantee that the schools with the greatest need will receive their fair share. Also, fancy new schools don't educate children, good teachers do. This legislation will help attract good teachers to Maryland.

Every aspect of Blue Print for Maryland's Future legislation is necessary to guarantee a better education than our children are receiving at this time. Do what is right for the children of Maryland and pass and fully fund the Blue Print for Maryland's Future legislation.

Nancy Henderson  
62 Dungarrie Rd • 21228



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I have been an English Composition Assistant (ECA) at two high schools for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for six years. As an ECA, I provide classroom support in English classes, helping teachers with instruction that meets all learning styles. I assist students with all aspects of the writing process including brainstorming and organizing ideas to close reading and analysis of literature, which can be more challenging for those who are English language learners or those who have learning disabilities.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources that are needed now in the classroom to ensure every child in Maryland receives an education that sets them up for success beyond high school.

Regina A. Gretschel  
10101 Pierce Dr., Silver Spring, MD • 20901





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I'm a parent of two young children, the oldest of whom is a first grader in PG County Public Schools, and a product of public schools myself.

This legislation is critical to ensuring our education system is in line with 21st century families and economic structures. For example, without fully funded public pre-K, many families miss the opportunity to access equitable, quality early education for their children and women who might otherwise work are kept out of the workforce. The current status of teacher pay is often abysmal, and we have a missed opportunity to bring amazing talent that goes elsewhere, either to better paid teaching positions or a to a different career path, into our school systems. Quality public education does have a price tag, but it is an investment we truly cannot afford to cut corners on if we expect Maryland's children to thrive in our state's schools. For those that say that this legislation is too expensive, I would counter to say that we actually can't afford NOT to adequately fund our education system.

Sarah Weber  
5007 37th Pl. • 20782



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February 17th, 2020

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I am a LAD Paraeducator working for MCPS Schools in a High School. Working with students who need additional (one-on-one) instructions repeated to ensure their success in class.

Because of the Kirwin funding, future generations of paraeducators will have access to better training academically to ensure the best possible outcome for student success.

Sherri Weiss  
Candlelight Court • 20854



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parent of one child in Pre-K and a two-year old. We're a Baltimore City public school family.

Not only does the Blueprint allocate resources more equitably to the students who need them most, this plan holds school systems accountable to more rigorous outcomes for student achievement that better reflect the new workforce needs of our evolving economy. Our students, who have been historically underserved by the current school system, will have more options for success.

Jessica Goldstein  
William Street • 21230



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I am a mother of a 5th grader in Harford County.

I have watched educational opportunities slowly recede within our county. This legislation would ensure they are restored.

Stacey Klima  
2304 Fife Ct • 21050



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I am the parent of a PGCPs kindergartner and another one coming down the pike.

There are so many things that will enhance and advance my child's education and also increase the appeal of the public schools to other community parents. I want our public schools to be the envy of other states and model in the nation.

Julia Crooks  
Nicholson St • 20782



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I am a para whom works with special ed

We will benefit for all the hard work we do.

Rachel Beckham  
Cheltenham Dr • 20814



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I am a mother of a current Baltimore City public school student.

Our schools are under funded and we need to change that for the future of our children and the state of Maryland. Maryland's future depends on having a well educated & prepared work force.

Beth Hayes  
707 W. University Parkway, Baltimore • 21210



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I am a parent of a Kindergartener and a 3rd grader, a graduate of Baltimore City Public Schools, a community activist, and faculty member at two universities in Maryland. I know what a good school can do. I have seen the lack of preparation students come to my college courses with now. I walk into schools where students cannot drink from the water fountains and have to squeeze into classrooms overfilled with students.

The teachers in this state need kind of career pathways this legislation will provide so that they will have reasons to stay in the field and in the classroom to become master teachers and allow students to have teachers in front of them that reflect who they are. I want to know my daughters are getting the best education in their classrooms because the teachers can give them attention and can focus on teaching because other supports exist in the school for at risk students and the increasing number of students facing trauma. This legislation provides all of these things and more.

Jill Vasbinder Morrison  
2417 Fleet St, Baltimore • 21224





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I live in Baltimore City and so do my two grandchildren. My granddaughter is a kindergartner in Medfield Heights Elementary School, a Baltimore City public school, and in 2021 my grandson will begin attending the same public school. I am also a citizen who passionately believes that excellence in public education for all children is fundamental to our success as a society,

I recently moved to Baltimore City from northern Virginia. It is extremely disturbing to me to see the contrast in the quality of public schools between the two areas. I believe it is a right, both legally and morally, for all children to be able to access a high-quality public education, but this right seems to be violated in Maryland, and glaringly so in Baltimore City. This legislation should be the top priority for this state. I do not accept the premise that its implementation would be too expensive. We are a rich state and can figure out how to pay for this, because the rewards will be greater than the cost.

Barbara Jarvis  
109 Woodlawn Rd, Baltimore, MD • 21210



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I'm the grandparent of two elementary children

My very bright granddaughters will benefit greatly from the opportunities that will be available to them from the career and technical education that this legislation will provide.

Deborah Morrison  
6008 Crossway Court, Eldersburg • 21784



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parent of an 8th-grader, parent of a college student who graduated from RPEMS and POLY

My son, and younger kids, will benefit from the technical education this legislation will provide.

Andrea Erdas  
5232 Downing Rd • 21212



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I am an employee of the school system and a parent. The strength of our district and state depends on this money.

I am an employee of the school system and a parent. The strength of our district and state depends on this money. My entire family and community will benefit from this legislation!

Nathalie Bourdereau  
11101 Waycroft Way • 20852



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I'm a parent of a 3rd grader and 5th grader at a Baltimore City elementary school

I'm a proponent of all aspects of this legislation, but particularly recommendation #4 promoting better social and emotional support for children at school. This is imperative if we are going to break the cycle of poverty and developmental trauma in families in our city and state.

Laura Scott  
Abell Ave • 21218



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Grandparent of 8 children from Pre-K to 11th grade.

Our young people are our future and our legacy. This plan addresses the different needs and goals these students have. In Maryland we have never approached education at this level or with this intensity. It is a blueprint not only for change but for impact for our future.

Patricia Reese  
23 Dungarrie Road • 21228



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I'm a Baltimore City public school student

I support this legislation because I agree that there are many things that needs to be fixed about the school system.

Adreya Lawosn  
5106 Goodnow Rd Apt B • 21206



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I am a special education teacher who works in Baltimore City. I am aware that many schools in the city do not have adequate services for children with physical, cognitive and psychological disabilities. Also I know that many children who grow up in families that have many challenges need special services to help them be able to be successful in a school setting. I am happy to say that the Kirwan Commission recommends expansion of services that address these special needs, but of course they come at a cost. Henceforth, I urge the legislature and Governor Hogan to allocate the monies needed to give all our children a chance to develop to their full potential. I believe that by investing in our children today, we will see future results where we will have more citizens that contribute positively to all the communities that make up the state we call our home.

Children and families that have special needs, I know can benefit from more wrap around services

Margaret Crowther  
4910 Crowson Ave. Baltimore, Md. • 21212





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I'm a parent of 2 and a middle school teacher at a Title 1 school.

This will give under-funded schools much needed money for additional resources and increased teacher pay.

Maria Cote  
941 Autmnwood Drive • 21054



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I am a family man

Because it supports early education in the state of Maryland, it guarantees that there are qualified teachers in each county, and there will also be a budget for after school and health programs.

Luis Cortes  
Gunners Terrace • 20876



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Soy un padre de familia

Porque cada niño merece ir a la escuela sin costo alguno y también porque necesitamos programas para la salud mental

Margarita Pena  
Choctaw Court • 20876



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I'm a parent of children in school

I want to make sure that our schools have the right trained teachers, afterschool programs, and less crowded schools.

Christian Flores  
Swiss Circle • 20874



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Soy una madre de familia

Programas after school, renovación de la escuela

Gloria Echevarria  
Wheelwright dr • 20886



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Padre de familia

Poder programas después de la escuela

Ana Molina  
18666 mustard seed ct • 20874



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Soy padre de familia

Maestros calificados

Maricela

19515 frederick rd • 20876



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Padre de familia

Tener programas des pues de la escuela

AidaEstrada  
7408 Brenish dr • 20879





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Padre de familia

Yo apoyo porque es importante para la educación temprana

Onelia Morales  
19515 Frederick rd • 20876



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Soy madre de un niño que iniciará la escuela el proximo año

Mi hijo empezara la escuela el proximo año

Paola Castedo  
318 west deer park rd • 20877



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I am the father of two girls (7 & 9) who attend Prince George's County Public Schools. My wife and I have lived in Hyattsville, Maryland since 2008. While there has been progress in terms of the quality of education offered in our neighborhood since we moved here, that progress has been halting and insufficient.

My wife and I have seen firsthand the deficiencies that arise from inadequate funding for public schools. High teacher turnover, classmates who are ill-prepared due to a lack of affordable pre-K, schools with high proportions of low-income students stretched to the brink as teachers and administrators try make up for deficits at home. These are just a few areas that would see vast improvements under a fully-funded Blueprint for Maryland's Future. As somebody who comes from a background in journalism, I have tried to research why it is that students and teachers in my county find themselves in this predicament. It is clear that insufficient funding over an extended period, combined with a lack of effort to modernize our state's education policy framework has greatly contributed to the middling status we now occupy. The Blueprint will reverse that decline.

I support the Blueprint because I believe in the Kirwan process. Some of our state's most dedicated public servants spent years delving into the question of how to produce top-tier student outcomes. Their recommendations are based on observing how the best school systems in the world operate. Why shouldn't Maryland emulate their example?

On the question of resources, I choose to take the long view. It is well-documented that a well-educated public produces a wealthier society, with lower crime rates and more opportunities for career growth. The investment we make today WILL pay dividends in the future.

In conclusion, I want to say that there are millions of parents, teachers and students who are counting on the Maryland Legislature to do the right thing, to make a commitment towards getting our public education system back on track, and back to the top-performing status it used to occupy. Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in the country, yet our spending as a percentage of that wealth lags other states. This is not a question of ability to make the necessary changes. It is simply a matter of will and political courage.

Peter Daniels  
5720 39th Ave Hyattsville, MD • 20781



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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I work with people who are not housed. You may know them as "homeless" but I know them as friends, co-volunteers, and acquaintances who are where they are because they didn't receive the education necessary to qualify for or be selected for living-wage jobs.

I worked and struggled to get my own education. But I always had a safety net to fall back on if (and when) I didn't quite reach a goal. Many do not have that safety net. Many don't have the benefits and privileges and opportunities and support that I had to make it through school. School in today's world takes everybody and everything to back each child. School today is about everything; food, protection and safety, culture, friends, guidance, and of course learning. I am retired. Those that run the world I live in are the products of the Maryland school system. They will either move Maryland forward, hold us back, or make us fail. Education is the keystone. Please support this bill. We will figure out how to fund everything else, but without adept and educated people to take our places in Maryland this state won't succeed. It won't be a place where I want to live my remaining life. It won't be a place that I recommend and it won't be a place that attracts businesses, young families, and the future.

Beverly Brown  
Bowie Maryland • 20721



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a mother of two children starting pre k this fall.

My two daughters will benefit, I wish my son could have benefited from this legislation as well.

Iliana Rodriguez  
104 Croydon Ct • 20901



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

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I am a retired educator with 30 years, teaching in Prince George's Public Schools. All 4 of my children attended and graduated from PGCPs and valued their time there.

For the past 5 years I have volunteered in my local high school and I support this legislation because I have seen how overloaded the High School and Middle School Counselors are with over 1,000 students to try to serve. I have talked with the students, who have come to our county and want to succeed in school, but feel bullied in school and misunderstood at home; have difficulty understanding the ways of our school system and have parents who cannot speak English. They need our compassion and understanding. With this legislation I think that we can supply more counselors to the Middle Schools and High Schools to take care of the mental health problems that are facing our students, because of threats of gun violence, intolerance, and traumas that they suffered in their homelands. These present very real problems to them that if they are not addressed now will afflict them in later years and cause them to have other health and mental problems in their middle age years. Community Schools can help address these problems. We are responsible for all of the children in our schools and it is our duty to educate them with compassion for one another so that they can all become productive members of our community. That is what they want to be. It is our duty to develop their cooperative, compassionate learning because they are our future; they will be our caregivers. We must show them that we care for them with good schools, good teachers, good school nurses and good counselors. All of our children deserve an equitable education. As we strive for excellence, we must also strive for educational equity.

Margaret Ann Boles  
10409 Cleary Lane, Mitchellville, MD • 20721



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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I am a parent of two students - a fifth grader and a tenth grader who have attended TAG specialty programs and are on a science and tech track.

When you support HB1300 & SB1000, you are providing the opportunities to make Maryland school systems the best in the country. We have many leading programs, but these programs need to be supported and expanded to grow Maryland's future by educating its youngest residents. They will become the leaders that will take Maryland to the top. My children and all the children in this state deserve to benefit from the career and technical educations so that they can be successful in the modern jobs that are available and are becoming available.

Alexandra Calloway  
12116 Quadrille Lane • 20720



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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February 17th, 2020

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I am the mother of 2 kids who have been in Special Education and my daughter is in middle school. I feel my kids were not prepared for adult life as they should be due to lack of funding that supports programs that would help find them find a career or job after they graduate. My son's have not been able to find jobs since they graduated from High School. I believe there should be funding to help students learn how to write a Resume and apply for jobs, and they should have a job secures before they graduated! We need more funding for General Education and Special Education to support their transition from High School to adult life. I also want to advocate for Paraeducators! Paraeducators sometimes fill a teacher's position and they should be paid as much as the teacher when subbing for them. I also believe that Paraeducators should be given the opportunity to fill those sub positions since they are more knowledgeable about the students they serve than a sub who just fills a seat and the paraeducator ends up doing all the work anyways because a lot of sub just take attendance and the rest is up to the paraeducator and we are getting under payed anyways as Paraeducators. I hope you can help up change Montgomery public School system so is more equitable for Paraeducators. Paraeducators should also be able to have a sub when they need to take off for sick or personal days without having them spend hours looking for their own subs. This is my testimony and I hope it makes a difference.

Current and future special needs students and my own daughter who is in General education classes will benefit from this legislation

Claudia Tinoco  
Southern Night Lane • 20879





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am an English Composition Assistant at Paint Branch High School. This is my third year working at PB. Prior to that I worked for some eight years at Wheaton High School as a Special Education Paraeducator. I am also a college teacher online with UMGC (formerly University of Maryland University College).

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB1300/SB1000) will grant necessary help for public school students in Maryland by aiming to provide adequate resources for every child, regardless of background and current state of academic accomplishment. It will assist teachers to meet students where they are, and lift them according to the principles of equity. Of importance are not only students who are achieving excellence, but those in the middle, and those struggling due to serious real-life challenges of various kinds, which differ among students, including poverty, language barriers, and special needs.

The Blueprint for Maryland's goal to change the life-trajectory of struggling learners through intelligent, targeted early interventions will help to create informed and involved US citizens. The Blueprint not only allocates resources more equitably but also holds school systems accountable for achieving more successful, foundational, and hopeful outcomes for students. This twin aim will contribute not only to a more dynamic citizenry and capable workforce. It will also contribute certain intangibles that are no less important for the people of our wonderful state: the happiness (both on the giving and receiving end) of Maryland's residents due to their participation in a community where human justice and generosity are manifest.

Victoria Kennick  
2707 Colston Drive • 20815



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Data manager for a charter school who has worked in education for 10 years.

Students across Maryland deserve access to an education that provides them ample opportunities in school and beyond. Funding the students of Maryland and truly providing them the support they need will make our communities safer, stronger, and more successful in the future.

Stefanie Mircovich  
Jackson Street, Baltimore, MD • 21230



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a working professional who has spent years in Baltimore city recruiting volunteers to help close the achievement gap for Baltimore City youth. Working in schools and getting to meet the incredible young people in our state who are facing astronomical barriers to their success has lit a fire in me to do everything I can to make sure they have every opportunity they want in life, which starts with a good education.

I support the Kirwan Commission for many reasons. The first is that I have seen the state of schools in our state, and it disgusts me. Children can't learn when the buildings they are learning in are crumbling down, when they have to watch out to not step on mice traps, when the heat and/or air break and their environment becomes unlivable. Second, teachers do not have what they need to successfully meet the needs of all of their children. I admit I am not a teacher, but I know many teachers, am friends and in community with educators and school staff members, and I have heard them loud and clear. They have to also be their best selves in those terrible working environments, without adequate pay to live themselves, without the supplies they need for their classes - it is not surprising that teachers do not stay in their professions, that the turn over is so high. I too would not want to be empowered with the incredibly important task of educating the future of our state without the tools I needed to be successful - I would not be able to sleep at night knowing I am failing my students, no matter how hard I try. Lastly, or the last reason I will talk about today, is the future. The future workforce of our state depend on this legislation - we cannot deny that the future of Maryland will look bleak if we do not invest in our young people now. There will not be enough educated workers in the state to fill all of the jobs we predict we will need. I you cannot see the obvious reasons in front of you now that this legislation needs to pass, look to the future. Ask yourself what you want your legacy to be. Do you want to be the person who denied a bright future to your state and the children you see every day, or the person who fought for what is equatable and right, to build a future we all want to live in. Do your future self a favor and do not pass on this opportunity to fully fund the Kirwan Commission. Even if you don't think you will live to see it, history will still remember what you decided in this moment.

I highly respect you and your position, the difficult decisions you make every day to make our lives better. However this one is not difficult. Please do the right thing, please fully fund the Kirwan Commission. Thank you for your time.

Maria Goodson  
330 W. Lorraine Ave, Baltimore MD • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a direct neighbor of three bilingual families (Mandarin, French, Russian, with English and Spanish ) whose children are benefitting from the instruction available in those languages here in Montgomery County, Maryland. They are so well prepared for the world in which we live, in knowledge and understanding, thoughtfulness and self-discipline.

This is a knowledge-based world. But not just knowledge, also understanding is necessary to thrive in it. Maryland seems to welcome knowledge and understanding (I have lived elsewhere, where this was not always the case) ; do not let this be lost.

Elsa Gibson  
9711 forest grove drive • 20910



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020**

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I am a special education paraeducator; I have worked under the Social Emotional Special Education Services (formerly ED) for over 20 years. I have seen educational support cut many times. I see students who could be successful with support; it's just not there. It has become critical that we provide the support that all of our students need, regardless of the program. My granddaughter will be attending a MCPS school next year. I can only hope the staffing will be there to support her.

This legislation is necessary to support students who are not at the top of the class, who are not college bound, who struggle getting through academics. We desperately need to provide opportunities for students to be successful, through improved teacher training, innovative programs, additional staffing to support students (and to support teachers so they can spend more time teaching). This legislation will be a great way to start increasing the variety of opportunities for our students to be success in school and after.

Janice Reese  
Valley Park Drive • 20872



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Math/science teacher, counselor and department chair, Baltimore County Public Schools; state supervisor of vocational guidance and state coordinator of career education, Maryland State Department of Education; executive director, National Career Development Association; adjunct faculty, Loyola University, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University.

As a parent, educator and involved citizen, I join the large majority of Maryland citizens and business leaders who support this legislation and are willing to pay for it. An investment in this education strengthening legislation will provide Maryland with a skilled and productive workforce, with stronger communities and with intelligent citizens and family members.

E..Niel Carey  
2661 Legends Way, Ellicott City • 21042



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am an Assistant Principal and a 20 year veteran of City Schools.

City schools desperately needs more resources to assist our students. Programs like Restorative Justice, Trauma Informed Care, PIEL and other intervention programs are key to support the diverse needs of our students. Staffing Community Schools are a must for Baltimore City and other districts and Kirwan can make that initiative a reality.

John Paz  
1210 W. 37th St. Baltimore, MD • 21211



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Mommy of three children ages 13, 10 & 3. Two homeschoolers and one public charter middle school student who is on the verge of being homeschooled.

All children attending a government funded school will benefit from an education system that is set up for their individual benefit, such as children with learning disabilities or trauma or any special needs, providing proper resources within the school building. This includes nurses, mental health care experts, and behavioral counselors for both teachers and students. A genuine accountability system that dissuades corrupt leadership who uses children as data and dollars and bullies teachers causing mental anguish to trickle down to our students. Basic supplies (computers, tablets, text books, paper, copy machines, ink, toilet tissue, hand sanitizer, Lysol, etc.) in every school for every child funded by school budgets, not parents and teachers. Vetted teachers who are well paid and valued by higher ups, and assistants for elementary classrooms and classrooms that max 20 students. Lastly, children of color receiving the exact same learning tools and quality education as their caucasian peers in schools throughout Maryland that house far less children of color. Eventually, less testing and more teaching should be in the table and elimination of teaching to testing.

Shanequa Pannell  
Fletchertown Road • 20720





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

Mom of a special needs pre schooler

My daughters and nephew would benefit

Amanda Carey  
Buck lodge rd • 20783



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a middle schooler

My son has an IEP and he would benefit from learning about careers that don't require a traditional college degree.

Tyrita Corbett  
4434 Lord Loudoun Ct • 20772



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm President of WCNAACP and a huge supporter of education. Universal full day Pre-k is very important to prepare children for school. It's a leg up.

I support this legislation because it will help close the long time achievement gap.

Mary Ashanti  
28684 Ocean Gateway, Salisbury, MD • 21801



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the parent of a 4th grader in PG public schools and an interested community member.

My son and all the children in our community will benefit from provisions in this legislation including better access to special education services, universal pre-K and community navigators to help high-poverty schools.

Laura Usher  
3909 Nicholson Street • 20782



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a parents of a 2nd & 4th grader, a child at an ECC and a 2 yr old at home.

The schools need improvement and the students can't wait

Takia Coley  
12236 kingswell Street • 20721



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020**

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In addition to having my own children educated in MCPS, I have worked for MCPS for 14 years in high school English classes. As an English Composition Assistant supporting the teachers in overcrowded classes with students who are struggling, I see the negative impact of underfunding our schools.

MCPS education is losing its reputation. Without this funding, education suffers, the kids suffer, and ultimately, our future will suffer.

Ann O'Donoghue  
4610 Harling Lane • 20814



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020

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My children attended MCPS and I am a Montgomery County resident.

As a parent with children in public schools, I believe it is essential to provide high quality teachers and leaders to schools and provide access to early childhood education to all people.

Nora Morales  
10029 Tenbrook Drive • 20901



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
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February 17th, 2020

**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a PhD candidate in Public Health and know that quality education is the best way to increase equity!

Children across our state will benefit from the educational opportunities this legislation provides. The best way to reduce crime is to create opportunities for kids today.

Michelle Hawks Cuellar  
2337 Madison Avenue • 21217





Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17th, 2020

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A Reservoir Hill, Baltimore neighborhood association resident that has been around for over 30 years and knows that investing in our children and youth is vital to a thriving community.

The future of our state and city depends on the investments we make today in our children. There are many young people in our neighborhood who would benefit from the opportunities this legislation provides.

Upper Eutaw Madison Neighborhood Association  
2337 Madison Avenue • 21217



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am the mother of a 5th grader at the Mount Washington School in Baltimore City, and a toddler who will be entering pre-k in just two years. I have made the decision to enroll my daughter in her zoned public school for Middle School, despite her meeting the entrance criteria to attend other public schools in the city with advanced programming. I myself am from the Bronx, NYC, and am a proud graduate of NYC public schools (K-12), and my mother was a public school teacher in NYC.

Both of my daughters will absolutely depend upon the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The funding for education outlined in the legislation is critical to ensuring that our public schools have all of the tools they need to provide a quality education to ALL students, regardless of the incomes of their families. Residents of Baltimore City see firsthand the effects of historically underserving our children - whether in wraparound services, special education investments, arts programming or STEM. The inequalities are stark, and too many teachers and PTO organizations are attempting to fundraise their way into equity, which is in a word, impossible.

Claudia Balog  
5820 CLARKS HL • 21210



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a parent of a 2nd grader and an employee who works at an educational non-profit for a BCPS school

My son and the school I work will benefit from all facets the legislation provides.

Krystal Henry  
415 Drury Lane • 21229



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm a community organizer who focuses on Educational Equity and policy. Over the past 3 years, I've worked with legislators and community leaders to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for Maryland's kids.

The recommendations outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's future legislation will allow us to finally make the long-term investments in education and public health and safety that we always hear people say is necessary. Unfortunately, over the past twenty years, through democratic and republican governors, we've seen much more of an investment in the school-to-prison pipeline than we have in \*schools\*. We've seen what a "public safety" plan that focuses too heavily on policing black communities nets — it's time to think of investing in Public Schools as a public safety and health initiative.

Dave Heilker  
2704 Huntingdon Ave • 21211



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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I'm the parent of a 6th grader at Robert Goddard Montessori School in PG County, and an alum of Montgomery County Public Schools.

I believe the improvements to our schools suggested by the Kirwan Commission are well researched and necessary to improve education in Maryland for generations to come. Improving education for our children will help to ensure a bright future for them and for the state of Maryland overall!

Amanda Eisen  
4028 Hamilton Street • 20781



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a father of two in Howard County. I am passionate about this legislation because I had the experience of my daughter, eager to learn, start to fall behind and eventually crumble in the 4th grade. Her teachers were stretched too thin and were not properly trained to identify her needs. To see the glimmer of hope drained from your child's eyes is a painful experience.

By God's grace, we had the resources to seek help outside of the public-school system and were able to afford years of private education to get her ready for public high school. It breaks my heart to think of all the struggling families whose children need better special education resources and classroom support that are losing hope. Our schools must do better. The earlier challenges are identified, the earlier they are corrected.

Our country needs us! Our national political landscape is fractured. Imagine the optics... In a State Capital 30 miles from our Nation's, with a Republican Governor and a Democratic-led Legislature. Able to come together to pass monumental legislation that will propel our great state to be the model for public education. We need the Pre-K (please consider 50% usage of existing programs instead of 30%). We need the Community Schools Program and Career Academy to spread statewide. We need better teacher pay and training. All the suggestions in this legislation, implemented in whole, fully-funded, will help ensure no child falls through the cracks the way my daughter did!

Lastly, I know a problem is not solved by legislation alone; therefore, we must also develop workable implementation plans with appropriate oversight. I urge you to consider there are many citizens like me, eager to stay involved. Whether that be in the bill's passage, its implementation, or a commitment to its oversight.

Michael Looney  
10560 Rivulet Row • 21044



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a Manager of College Placement with KIPP Through College, our college matriculation and persistence program in KIPP Baltimore. I have also taught at a KIPP school in NYC.

This funding is crucial for keeping up the great work that KIPP is doing. It has achieved some of the highest levels of growth in reading and math in the district, and it also plays a fundamental role in assisting our students to and through college. It is not only a school, but a community and resource.

Alex Baldy  
Eastern Avenue • 21224



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
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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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

My daughter Grace attended Baltimore School for the Arts. She received a world-class education in both academics and visual arts. She has now earned three honors degrees, one from FIT [Fashion Institute of Technology] and two from NYU, a B.A. in German Studies and an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies. For the past 5 years, I have been a reading tutor at Brown Memorial Tutoring Program in Bolton Hill in Baltimore City. I've worked one-on-one with several elementary-age students from first grade through fifth grade. One of my students has been with me since first grade and is now a fifth-grader, almost 12 years old and soon off to middle school. He came to me unable to read and write. He is able to read and write now and does so with curiosity and joy. He has a vast imagination and sense of humor, amazing artistic skill, and he draws detailed, complex pictures with accompanying stories. He engrosses himself in reading about prehistoric and modern life forms. His comprehension is on point, and he now has confidence that he can push himself further. Two of my other students came to tutoring later, in the third and fourth grades. The girl was able to decode anything but had very poor comprehension and abstract thinking skills and she did not improve much. The boy who entered the Tutoring Program in mid-fourth grade was unable to read competently and he resisted writing. He made some but not a lot of improvement and at the end of fifth grade was passed on to middle school. These children deserve earlier and better attention and interventions. No child in Maryland in 2020 should receive a second- or third-class education. We need the Blueprint's programs and requirements to be fully funded and implemented so our children can achieve a world-class education and a promising future.

Maryland's youngest residents deserve to have a top-notch education from their earliest years. Prekindergarten Expansion, Full-Day Kindergarten, and Family Support Centers are foundational pillars of the Blueprint for Maryland, not pipe dreams: these pieces are absolutely necessary for all of Maryland's children, their families, and their communities to thrive. These pieces are educational and community building-blocks, and they need to be implemented and they need to be fully funded -- NOW. Additionally, the Blueprint's requirements to bolster teacher trainings and practicums are essential, as are tighter eligibility criteria for certification of teachers. The young children of Baltimore City as well as the rest of Maryland will more than benefit from early childhood programs and elementary-age social and educational interventions: these young people will gain solid skills and real confidence. They will have a foundation to build on for the rest of their lives to achieve success and stability. Baltimore City overlaps with Anne Arundel County; Baltimore is not a distant planet. It deserves to be brought into the fold and treated with statewide respect, and that should start by honoring the youngest community members and cultivating their hope and promise with appropriate and goal-reaching educational and community and family support systems. We are all connected.

Elizabeth Hand  
2026 Gov. Thomas Bladen Way • 21401





**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000  
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**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 create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a graduate of the Baltimore County Public School system. I attended from 1963 to 1975. I received a first rate education through public schools and I am troubled now that public education in Maryland is failing to maintain the high standards I experienced.

The Kirwan Commission recommendations offer a solid path to restore Maryland public education to the high standards I experienced back in the 1960's and 1970's. I implore you to not only pass SB1000/HB1300 but to also fund these essential bills. Educated citizens insure a strong democracy!

Thomas Smith  
8339 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, Md • 21204



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**I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to create a world-class prek-12 public school system in Maryland.**

I am a current senior at Bard High School Early College Baltimore and I have attended a Baltimore City Public School for the last 3 years of school. Up until 10th grade I had attended private schools all of my life and only heard about how much public schools lacked. I did not understand how bad it was until I was enrolled in the school myself and experiencing this firsthand. Some of my classes didn't have enough laptops when assigned research or typing papers and some classes didn't even have enough textbooks for each student in the class. The majority African American school was full of majority white, male teachers who I cannot relate to.

I support this policy because it would bring back all of the money Baltimore City is currently being underfunded. They would also provide students of color with diverse teachers to allow for better student/teacher relationships. As a black female student, from past experience I can confidently state, nothing is more empowering than having a black woman, a person I can look to as an example of my future, as the teacher. Also, the fact that many of their approaches remind me of my mother and I's bond bringing so much more comfort and trust in the classroom.

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