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**Testimony in Support with Amendments to Senate Bill 983  
Education—Maryland Data Analysis and Accountability Program—Established**

**Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 26, 2020  
1:00 PM**

**Tina N. Dove, M.Ed.  
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association offers this testimony to Senate Bill 983, legislation that would establish the Maryland Data Analysis and Accountability Program within the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS) Center.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As it is currently written, MSEA is opposed to Senate Bill 983 because we believe that it adds an unnecessary and duplicative layer of bureaucracy onto both the Blueprint for Maryland's Future's Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and the MLDS Center. We believe that the goals of the original bill language could be reached under both existing law and within the Blueprint (as currently written).

We have been made aware of the bill sponsor's intent to amend the original bill such that the Maryland Data Analysis and Accountability Program would be created and administered by the MLDS Center; that it will be responsible for evaluating the success of the implementation of the Blueprint legislation; and that it will provide analysis and outcomes data related to the Blueprint's implementation.

While accommodations would still need to be made in the Blueprint legislation for even this amended bill to fit in the broader conversation, MSEA finds this amended language could potentially clarify the oversight roles of the AIB and the Maryland State Department of Education. However, we must point out that we believe determining the nature of the roles and functions of these respective agencies and how best to ensure strong accountability, support for the MLDS, and data-driven decision making should ultimately be left to the ongoing debate and deliberations on the Blueprint.

**We ask the committee to consider this testimony as it takes action on Senate Bill 983 and throughout the deliberations related to Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.**