



**Testimony Concerning SB0870 “Baltimore City Youth Data Hub – Establishment”
Submitted to the Senate of Delegates Committee on Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs
February 22, 2022**

To: The Senate of Delegates Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.
From: Mark Lerner, Baltimore’s Promise, Board Chair

Re: SB 0870 “Baltimore City Youth Data Hub—Establishment”

I am honored, in my capacity as Board Chair of Baltimore’s Promise, to join in others testifying today with regard to the unique opportunity that we have before us for Baltimore’s children, and therefore request your support for the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to pass this proposed legislation to establish the Baltimore Youth Data Hub.

The mission of Baltimore’s Promise is to coordinate strategy, identify quality programs, support alignment activities, establish shared measures for meaningful results, build public will, and advance policy on behalf of Baltimore City’s youth. Today, hundreds of stakeholders – including the school district, higher education institutions, foundations, businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, adult residents, and youth and young adults – are engaged to build a broad basis of support for our commitment to work together to benefit our children.

Baltimore’s Promise has five ambitious goals for the City’s youth as they progress from childhood to adulthood:

- Babies are born healthy.
- Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.
- Children and youth achieve at grade level in school.
- Youth graduate high school prepared for the next step without remediation.
- Youth earn quality post-secondary credential or receive training and are career ready.

From the outset, we have operated collaboratively, always committed to undertaking our efforts within Baltimore’s Promise’s clear commitment to race, equity, and inclusion. Throughout Baltimore’s history, we have never had a complete and reliable compilation of data that provided us with the means of assessing both the resources our young people need and how we can most effectively raise and allocate them so that our young people can grow up with an expectation that they will graduate from high school prepared for continuing education and/or meaningful employment.



During the past decade, bringing together leaders from government including mayors, school CEOs, Health Commissioners, heads of universities, leaders from major businesses and philanthropies, we have launched a number of undertakings that are transforming education, public safety, justice, housing, workforce training, and more for the sake of improving the lives of Baltimore's youth. However, every project we undertake leads us back to an absolute need for reliable data about the City's young people in order to make sure that we are meeting their needs and most efficiently allocating resources to these efforts. The Baltimore Youth Data Hub is an integrated data system, linking across youth-serving organizations into an anonymous system subject to community oversight and strict guidelines, to improve quality of life outcomes for all of our young people. Moreover, more than a half decade has gone into designing this data hub, learning from the experiences of more than 60 cities around the US that have implemented youth data hubs, and assuring that the privacy rights of every young person in Baltimore are assured as the data hub is implemented and maintained.

The opportunities that will be generated by this data hub are truly transformational and I implore the Committee members to vote in support of SB 0870. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification. I can be reached by phone at (410) 602-0195 or by e-mail at Mark@tramar.org. Thank you very much.