



ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maryland General Assembly
House Ways and Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary – Chair
Room 131 – House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 13, 2024

Dear Chair Atterbeary,

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization comprised of thousands of members from offices across the United States and internationally. For almost 30 years, the AIG has advocated on behalf of its members to advance the mission of independent oversight in government.

The AIG has closely reviewed the recent legislative initiatives that have resulted in House Bill 746 affecting the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (Maryland OIGE). The AIG supports the passage of the proposed legislation as it takes substantial steps towards vesting the Maryland OIGE with the authority it requires to provide independent oversight and transparency over the expenditure of public funds for education in Maryland.

Several sections of House Bill 746 are consistent with the spirit of the AIG's Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General (AIG Principles and Standards), which identifies professional standards and tenets to assure that all OIGs have the foundation to pursue their mission with the necessary measures of independence and authority. House Bill 746, as proposed, represents significant progress for independent oversight with our review noting the following components. The bill:

- establishes the scope of authority and jurisdiction of Maryland OIGE;
- establishes and articulates the Inspector General's selection, term and conditions for removal from office;
- provides the Maryland OIGE the ability to obtain independent counsel;
- provides protections for individuals who provided information or cooperated with the Maryland OIGE;
- provides the Maryland OIGE with full access to records; and
- vests the Maryland OIGE with subpoena authority.

In summary, the AIG supports House Bill 746 and encourages it to be passed. We are very happy to assist further if needed.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Will Fletcher, AIG President