

Dear Senate Executive Nominations Committee,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for Alverne “Chet” Chesterfield as he seeks confirmation to the Maryland State Board of Education. As an esteemed leader in education, public service, and community engagement, Chet embodies the dedication, integrity, and visionary leadership that this position demands.

Chet’s impact on education spans decades, marked by his unwavering commitment to student success, institutional advancement, and equitable access to educational opportunities. His service as Executive Director of the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and his extensive tenure at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) demonstrate his ability to foster learning environments that empower students and educators alike. Whether serving as an administrator, adjunct professor, or mentor, he has consistently championed initiatives that uplift communities, particularly those in underserved regions.

A historic trailblazer, Chet is the first African American male from Maryland’s Eastern Shore, specifically Somerset County, to serve on the State Board of Education. His confirmation would bring a vital perspective to state-level decision-making, ensuring that the voices of Eastern Shore residents and historically marginalized communities are represented in shaping educational policies. His leadership is characterized by an authentic desire to serve, a collaborative approach to problem-solving, and a forward-thinking vision for improving educational outcomes across Maryland.

Beyond his professional accolades, Chet is a man of integrity, generosity, and humility. He is the kind of leader who would give the shirt off his back to support someone in need. His service extends beyond the classroom and boardroom—he is an engaged member of his church, an advocate for youth mentorship, and a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, where he continues to uplift and inspire others.

The Maryland State Board of Education would greatly benefit from Chet’s wealth of experience, strategic leadership, and deep-rooted passion for education. His confirmation would not only honor his decades of service but also fortify Maryland’s commitment to inclusive, impactful, and transformative educational policies.

I strongly urge you to support Alverne “Chet” Chesterfield’s confirmation to the Maryland State Board of Education. His leadership will undoubtedly leave a lasting imprint on the state’s education system, and I am confident that his contributions will be invaluable.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional insight or further endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being more prominent than the last name "Warren".

Richard Warren, Ed.D
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