

**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
February 17, 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 the great State of Maryland.

I am President of Southway Builders, Inc., a Baltimore City based general contracting construction company. Our industry is starved for qualified workers, and the pool of applicants that are currently available through the Baltimore City public school system are grossly unqualified. When 50% of the graduating class is reading below an 8th grade reading comprehension level, it is no wonder that we have a public safety crisis in our City. When our children cannot qualify for honest work, then they are left with illegal enterprises as the only means to feed themselves.

Our children are our future, and when we underfund education, we should expect abysmal results. It is time for drastic and bold measures. Please vote to support these Bills, to clarify to all, there simply is nothing more important than the education of our children!

For the future of our State, it is critical that we pass and fund the Blueprint for Maryland's future.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William H Moore
-President-