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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 1000 and House Bill 1300 (SB1000/HB1300) - Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs; Senate Budget & Taxation; House Appropriations; and House Ways & Means Committees February 17, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: SB1000 and HB1300 would implement The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the recommendations of the task force commonly known as the "Kirwan Commission," designed to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high-performing systems around the world. The bill would also create new accountability mechanisms intended to ensure the Commission's recommendations are implemented properly and consistently across Maryland's 24 public school systems.

Written Comments: A key to the values of Judaism is education. Jewish immigrants realized the importance of public education as a way to become integrated in American secular society. The Jewish community and the Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) have a long tradition of supporting public and non-public education at all levels.

Consistent with our values, the BJC supported the 2001 recommendations of the Thornton Commission on K-12 public education funding. We see the report of the Kirwan Commission as the logical next step in taking our public school systems to a higher level. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future aims to transform our state's thinking about education from prekindergarten through high school, creating a system of enhanced funding and greater accountability that will ensure that all students – regardless of where they live in our state – have an opportunity to learn and be prepared to become productive members of our society. While we recognize that it will be a challenge to find funding for the full 10-year implementation of the plan, we believe that this investment is crucial to the future of our state.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on SB1000 and HB1300.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL
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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

AN AGENCY OF
The logo for The Associated Jewish Community, featuring a stylized menorah or similar symbol. **The Associated**
Inspiring Jewish Community