

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education, and Health and Environmental Affairs
Committees**

House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees

February 17th, 2020

I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high-performing systems around the world.

I have been a student at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School for nine years. I am in 8th grade. In my experience at Baltimore City Public Schools, I have been fortunate to be able to go to Roland Park Elementary/Middle School. Very few schools in the city manage to get the resources that our school gets, which is undemocratic, because schools in low-income neighborhoods should be receiving more funding than schools in high-income areas. Roland Park, specifically, has a dark and racially fueled history, being a redlined and segregated community.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future [HB1300/SB1000] is necessary for Maryland's children because this legislation provides the resources essential to ensure every child in Maryland receives a world-class education. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future will drastically change the trajectory for struggling learners by implementing targeted interventions early. It would also provide funding for Gifted and Talented Education in Maryland.

Unlike every other initiative before it, the Blueprint would have an accountability system, making an Inspector General in charge of overseeing the distribution of funds, finally putting an end to discrimination based on

neighborhoods. Implementing the Blueprint would not only help Baltimore City schools but schools statewide.

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

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