

**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 17, 2020**

I sincerely support House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000 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 am a 13 year old that will be in high school in several months. I've been a Maryland constituent for just over three years, and have spent the vast majority of my life hopping between cities, having lived in North Carolina and Georgia for one year and three years respectively, and stayed in Tennessee for around six years. I have lived my childhood in states much poorer than Maryland, and I understand through and through the socioeconomic challenges that middle class Americans face when sending people of my generation to school. Our schools are inefficient at teaching, behind technologically and financially, and are not properly equipping students like me with the resources they need to become fiscally independent adults in our nation's modern capitalistic society.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future [HB 1300 / SB 1000] will do so much for our great state's youth, because this legislation gives my generation that resources that it needs to excel in the school system. The Blueprint will provide impoverished schools with the money they need to empower their youth out of despair, while enriching already strong schools, making them a beacon of progress and of our nation's democratic system, setting a legacy that schools nationwide will try and replicate and surpass.

Having gone to school in one of the highest ranking schools in Baltimore City, I can attest to the advantages I have over many of my peers downtown and in the suburbs. As our school system fails to distribute our taxpayer money effectively, schools like mine will catch up with the national average, but my friends across the City will be locked out of the opportunities, scholarships, and experiences that I will be given. A financial bureaucracy that cannot provide the simplest of necessities to the schools that so many Maryland students depend on is unacceptable and must be open to the reform of HB 1300.

If and when Maryland's legislature passes the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, we will begin to see a massive change. Literacy rates, college acceptance rates, high school enrollments, scholarships, bachelors' degrees, and more will all begin to tick upwards, empowering our great state's economy and restoring faith in our electorate. We can set the bar that the rest of the nation follows by providing a framework of how to lift our communities into distinction.

For these reasons, I urge the committees to issue a stellar report for HB 1300 and SB 1000.

Ethan Koay Eblaghie, District 41