

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs Committees  
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 am an eighth grade student from Roland Park Elementary and Middle School, a facility in the Baltimore City, Maryland District. I have attended public school since kindergarten, and since then I have noticed an abundance of issues regarding my education. I have experienced class sizes of nearly thirty-five, and I have endured the effects of insufficient materials, such as textbooks and papers. Without sufficient materials, it becomes quite difficult to achieve my desired potential.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future [HB1300/SB1000] is crucial to the advancement of the future generation. Without sufficient funding, Maryland schools lack the resources they need to implement a productive learning environment. Without textbooks, there is less structure to the course which can lead to irrelevant or simplified classes. Without science materials, the classes lack the aspects of visual and interactive learning. With dysfunctional technology, classes are slowed or even canceled, making them counter-productive. The lack of funding narrows our learning which in turn reflects our performance.

The Blueprint helps reverse the consequences of poorly funded public schools. With adequate funding, this bill could promote a healthier learning environment. It has the potential to decrease class sizes, upgrade technology and purchase updated textbooks. The plan would aid closing the gap Maryland public schools face in comparison with the public schooling provided by foreign nations. An increased education would keep Maryland in the race of superior education and a stronger community. After all, in the long run, promoting stronger education would possibly decrease unemployment rates and allow Maryland citizens to become more successful on the path to achievement. Maryland is **capable** of passing a bill promoting education. The only question that remains is whether Maryland **wants** to.

Through passing this bill, we can seize the opportunity to provide an engaging and productive education to the children of Maryland. In my opinion, there are few things more important than the progression of our society and the adequate education needed to reach that goal. We should build our way to the future, starting with the crucial foundations of education.

It is for these reasons that I urge the committees to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1300 and Senate Bill 1000.

Louis Lapp, District 3  
Student of the Baltimore City Public School District