



A Union of Professionals  
**AFT-Maryland**

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226  
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008  
md.aft.org

Marietta English  
PRESIDENT

Kenya Campbell  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to  
the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The House Appropriations Committee and Ways and Means Committee  
SB 100/HB 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation  
February 17, 2020**

**SUPPORT**

Good afternoon chairs and members of the committees. AFT-Maryland, which represents over 20,000 educators, state, county and local employees in Maryland, calls for passage of the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, manifested in SB 1000 and HB 1300.

AFT-Maryland has been an active participant in the Kirwan Commission since it was first founded. Our representative on the commission - the only public school teacher - provided the unique perspective about the day-to-day operations in our classrooms.

AFT-Maryland wishes to remind our elected leaders that the recommendations of the commission cannot be taken piecemeal. Instead, all policy changes complement each other, and must be adopted in total if the implementation of the recommendations is to be successful.

As the committees work on potential amendments - AFT-Maryland asks that all public school teachers including the ones who work for state agencies like the **Maryland School for the Deaf** - are included in the numerous policy and program improvements.

We will advocate for bill language that will assure counties can actually pay their fair share into their own public school systems, and the state will assess actual wealth of a jurisdiction to determine what precisely is that local’s fair share.

Finally, we will work to assure that oversight is not overly punitive, especially since the commission has found for decades, schools and students have not received the money and resources needed to adequately fund education.

Members of the committee, this legislation is quite possibly the most important bill you will consider in your legislative careers. It is certainly the most consequential and comprehensive regarding public education in this state. AFT-Maryland is proud to support the passage of SB 1000/HB 1300 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation.