

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 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.

My name is Saidah Ervin and I go to Roland Park Elementary Middle School. An amazing Baltimore City Public School. I've been attending RPEMS for almost a decade and in that time I've seen how greatly budgetary issues have hurt our learning environment. Although I have had amazing teachers and our school is in a more affluent area of the city, the lack of funding has had a major impact.

Our public schools buildings are falling apart. Not only the physical spaces but our instructional materials. Our schools have extremely outdated textbooks AND in some classes, we don't have textbooks at all. This year programs are more underfunded than usual and we can't afford educational trips, 21st-century technology, or money to support clubs and activities.

I stand here dreaming of a better tomorrow. A school that has classrooms full of the latest technology. Classrooms led by a diverse group of professional educators. A school with clubs that have the funding to succeed and a school that has the money to take learning outside of the classroom. A school with small enough class sizes that students can have the one on one attention they deserve. We deserve a school system that gives us access to diverse careers and a chance to see opportunities that we currently can not.

To ensure that every student across Maryland gets the education they deserve, I strongly support The Blueprint for Maryland's Future because this legislation will make sure every student has ALL of the tools they need to thrive in an educational environment. I may only have about four years left in this school system but the Blueprint will make those years so much better. This potential funding will impact generations of Marylanders. Future generations will have a better education than any of us could have hoped for.

For years lawmakers haven't funded our schools adequately but now is the time to make up for that. **THE TIME IS NOW. STAND WITH ME TO SUPPORT OTHER CHILDREN JUST LIKE ME. LET'S GET OUR SCHOOLS THE FUNDING THEY SO DESPERATELY DESERVE!**

Saidah Ervin, District 43