

March 4, 2021

SB0915

Testimony Submitted by: Jill Warzer

Support BILL SB 0915

CONTACT INFO: jwarzer@gmail.com 2107 Dobler Ave. Baltimore, MD 21218

TESTIMONY

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Subject: [SB0915](#) -The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Performance Standards - Clarifications

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee](#)

Colleagues:

I am a career educator “retired” after nineteen years in Baltimore City Schools, currently serving on the Advisory Committee for the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative.

I am writing to strongly supports the approval of **SB 0915-The Blueprint for Maryland's Future-Performance Standards-Clarifications as a technical amendment to HB1300-Blueprint for Maryland's Future. SB 915-** will clarify the use of the term “performance standards” and ensure that all districts will be held accountable to ensure ALL Maryland students received a world-class education in Maryland under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future as defined by the State’s performance standards, [Maryland COMAR Regulations, Title 13A State Board of Education](#).

I believes that the approval of this technical amendment will more clearly define performance standards, tied to systematic accountability throughout state and local government not just within state and local boards of education and their administrations, but through the General Assembly [Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review \(AELR\)](#) and the recently created Accountability and Implementation Board. I also believe this technical change is consistent with [Maryland’s ESSA Plan approved by the USDE](#) to ensure all students within all student groups have access to a well-rounded curriculum in all grades.

From personal experience over 20 years, I can attest that despite COMAR, severe inequities in students’ access to comprehensive, sequential programs in areas such as gifted and talented education, foreign languages and especially **arts education**, persist in practice. **SB 915 is needed** to ensure these inequities do not persist, and the intent of the Blueprint is realized fully for all students.

This amendment is particularly important because COMAR Title 13A includes the arts. The arts are needed to ensure that each student receives a well rounded education, and can identify and develop their interests and talents, to pursue arts as vocations, or add to their well being and quality of life as avocations. SB 915 will strengthen district accountability to provide adequate funding to ensure quality instruction, programming and resources in the arts, Our students deserve no less.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Maryland students,

Jill Warzer



