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Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees
Capital Budget

Oversight Committee on Personnel
Transportation and the Environment



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Education - Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership (HB 633) Testimony of Delegate Jeff Ghrist—
Favorable with Amendments

Thank you Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee. I come before you today to discuss the AIB Board Membership (HB 633). When we passed HB1300 (Blueprint for Maryland's Future) we understood how important accountability would be if we mandated broad sweeping changes in how we educate our children in Maryland's public schools. We also understood the importance of having diversity in the Accountability and Implementation Board.

Sadly, last fall, the nominating committee failed to send to the Governor a list of names that represent both geographic and racial diversity despite HB1300 expressly requiring them to do so. This past September, Governor Hogan requested that the nominating committee send him a more diverse pool of nominees from which to choose. Unfortunately they did not, and therefore we ask that this committee expand the membership from 7 to 11 members and require that we have membership from all regions of our state.

"We are disappointed with the list of nominees that a released today by the Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee. None of the applicants who were selected are residents of Prince George's County, our State's second largest school district, and home to over 130,000 students in need of the resources and direct services provided by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future," said Del. Alonzo T. Washington (D-Prince George's), the Chair of the Education Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. -*Maryland Matters*

The bill would guarantee the largest five counties, including Prince George's, to have representation on the AIB Board. As you are all aware there is also no representation on the board from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. The bill will guarantee that these regions would also be represented.

The local governing bodies and school boards in these regions understand the importance of representation. There are stark differences in every corner of Maryland and the power that is in the hands of this board should not be limited to just four of the state's 24 jurisdictions. AIB is responsible for developing a statewide comprehensive plan to guide reforms and approve county-level implementation plans. It also has the power to withhold 25% of new state funding from counties each fiscal year until the board approves a county's progress toward implementing reform.

Please move this bill with a favorable report in order to give Marylanders from all parts of our state a voice in the future of Maryland's public education.