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February 16, 2026

From: League of Women Voters Baltimore County
To: Senator Feldman, Chair, and Members of the Senate EEE Committee

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 15, which grants the Baltimore County Inspector General authority to include oversight of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS).

The League's mission is to promote effective, transparent, and accountable government that serves the public interest. Central to that mission is ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and that public confidence in local government, particularly in education, remains strong.

BCPS now represents almost half of Baltimore County's total budget, with appropriations approaching \$2.5 billion annually. Despite this major investment, many residents express concern about whether these resources are allocated effectively and whether educational outcomes reflect this level of spending. Budget requests for BCPS have steadily grown to exceed \$2.5 billion, yet far too many citizens still do not see meaningful improvements for their children, their schools, or their communities.

The League supports independent oversight as an essential safeguard to ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration. The Baltimore County Council has already recognized this need by adopting a resolution to expand the Inspector General's authority. Senate Bill 15 builds on that local action by providing the clear legal framework necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse across all county operations, including the school system that serves our children and families.

This bill reflects the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance that the League of Women Voters has long championed and that Baltimore County residents expect and deserve.

We respectfully urge your favorable support of Senate Bill 15.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ramona N. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ramona N. Johnson
President