

Subject: Opposition to HB 1555 – Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Oversight Requirements

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Gibson, and I am a parent and resident of Harford County, Maryland. I am writing to express concerns regarding **HB 1555**, which would establish a new legislative oversight structure related to the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Strong oversight and transparency are essential for an initiative as significant and costly as the Blueprint. Maryland families deserve confidence that education funding is being used effectively and that policies are producing measurable improvements in student outcomes. However, HB 1555 raises concerns about adding another layer of bureaucracy to a system that already includes multiple oversight bodies responsible for monitoring Blueprint implementation.

The Maryland State Department of Education and the Blueprint’s Accountability and Implementation Board were specifically established to provide oversight and ensure that the goals of the Blueprint are being met. Creating an additional committee with broad investigative powers risks duplicating responsibilities, increasing administrative burdens, and creating confusion for school systems already navigating complex reporting and compliance requirements.

In addition, I am concerned about provisions that would allow direct involvement from organizations that represent specific stakeholder interests, including teachers’ unions. While educators are an important voice in education policy, unions are advocacy organizations whose primary responsibility is to represent the interests of their members. Their priorities do not always align with the broader goal of ensuring that student needs come first. Oversight structures should prioritize objectivity and maintain a clear focus on student outcomes rather than giving disproportionate influence to any single interest group.

As a parent, my primary concern is that education policy decisions remain focused on what is best for students and classrooms. Oversight mechanisms should promote transparency and accountability while ensuring that decision-making remains balanced, objective, and centered on student success.

Rather than creating an additional oversight body that risks duplicating existing efforts and elevating special-interest influence, the General Assembly should focus on strengthening current accountability systems and ensuring they remain focused on improving outcomes for Maryland students.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give **HB 1555 an unfavorable report**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Gibson
Harford County, Maryland