



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

September 10, 2021

Chair Shanaysha Sauls
PUP Building, 4th Floor
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

Vice-Chair Paul Pinsky
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Dr. Sauls and Senator Pinsky,

The Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) is tasked with overseeing the implementation of billions in education spending and granted enormous authority to hold school systems accountable for student outcomes and changes in achievement gaps. In order to succeed and in the interests of equity, it's imperative that the AIB has a diverse membership that is representative of the student population in Maryland.

The Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee was required to select nominees that reflect the geographic, racial, and gender diversity of the State. The Nominating Committee held five meetings, more than half of which were conducted in closed sessions where the public could not provide meaningful input or hear the deliberations. Furthermore, there was a troubling lack of transparency, with the ultimate votes for nominees being conducted in a closed session meeting.

While many of the nominees selected are undoubtedly qualified individuals, there is a discernible lack of representation from the majority of jurisdictions in the State. In fact, the Nominating Committee's nine nominees represent just the four jurisdictions of Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Montgomery County. Since the nominees have been named, I have received letters from Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks expressing concerns over the lack of representation for Prince George's County - the state's second most populous jurisdiction - and the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus expressing

concerns that there is no representation for Latino communities in among the nominees. I am attaching both pieces of correspondence. In addition, there is no representation whatsoever from the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland or any rural jurisdiction.

In light of this lack of diversity, which has drawn bipartisan concern, I am hereby requesting that you immediately reopen the application process and provide a slate of nominees that accurately reflect our student population. To ensure the unique challenges throughout the state are represented, it is critical we have individuals familiar with school systems that serve different constituencies.

By statute, I have until October 1, 2021 to approve seven of the nominees selected by the AIB. Therefore, I am asking you to provide additional nominees by September 27, 2021.

Every student in Maryland deserves access to a world class education and to be fairly represented in the decision-making process that governs school policy. To operate in a manner that hurts our efforts to further equity and inclusiveness does a tremendous disservice to our young people. I look forward to you immediately addressing this critical issue.

Sincerely



Larry Hogan
Governor

cc:

The Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee
Senate President Bill Ferguson
House Speaker Adrienne Jones
Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

September 3, 2021

Dear Governor Hogan,

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) presents a critical opportunity for educational reform, including the survey of funds that focus on increasing equity for underserved populations. That is why the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC) was disappointed by the AIB Nominations Committee's list of nominees that was released this week.

The legislation and the Board may be intended to help all Marylanders, however, there is a discernible lack of representation for Latino communities in Maryland. We know if we are not at the table, we are less likely to have a voice.

The new 2020 Census data is clear. The increase of the Latino population drove our nation's growth over the past decade; Latinos accounted for more than [50 percent](#) of the country's augmented population numbers. A similar trend is seen in Maryland, where Latino residents are among the most [rapidly growing](#) demographic in our state.

In the last 10 years, the Latino population has grown from eight to nearly [12 percent](#) in Maryland. Importantly, the Latino population encompasses a [large and also growing segment](#) of a young generation that is directly impacted by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Without adequate representation on the AIB, it will be difficult to sufficiently meet the needs of the Latino students whom this legislation is intended to support.

Additionally, Latino youth constitutes the largest proportion of English Language Learners, who are typically the children of parents of limited education and who experience disproportionate levels of poverty. They stand to benefit tremendously from the expenditures outlined in the Blueprint.

If the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is to achieve its aims, there must be a consideration for the AIB to incorporate the representation that can ensure the unique interests of the Latino student population are being taken into account. We respectfully urge you to name a qualified Latino member as an addition to the AIB. This is a pivotal time for our students and our highest priority is affording them a future that is bright and successful. We would like to achieve this together through an inclusive and equitable Accountability and Implementation Board.

If you are interested in discussing this matter further, I can be contacted at David.Fraser.Hidalgo@house.state.md.us, or you can reach out to our Executive Director, Cesiah Fuentes at Latino.Caucus@house.state.md.us. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Fraser-Hidalgo". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Fraser-Hidalgo, Chair

cc:

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair Blueprint for Maryland's Future of the Accountability and Implementation Board

Senate President Bill Ferguson

Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
State House 100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing to express my concern that, based on the nominees you have to choose from for the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) that will determine how the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is implemented across our state, Prince George's County will not be represented on this critical Board. While I appreciate that a representative from Prince George's Community College will be considered for the AIB, Ms. Doss is not a County resident, nor does she interact with our public schools on a daily basis.

As you are aware, Prince George's County is the second largest school district in the state, with more than 130,000 students. We also have more than 60 percent of our students on free and reduced lunch and we educate some of the highest populations of disadvantaged youth, while we are also facing further educational gaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Blueprint funding is critical to both our immediate recovery and the long-term success of our school system and the students we educate.

To ensure that the unique challenges we face are front and center as the AIB develops an implementation plan and then monitors how that plan is put into action, it is critical that we have a Prince Georgian, who is familiar with our school system, on the AIB. I stand ready to work with your team to provide appropriate candidates for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Alsobrooks". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Angela Alsobrooks
County Executive