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September 27, 2021

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Sent via Electronic Communication

Dr. Shanaysha Sauls, Chair

Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee

PUP Building, 4th Floor

1000 Hilltop Circle

Baltimore, MD 21250

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Vice Chair

Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee

Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Dr. Sauls and Senator Pinsky,

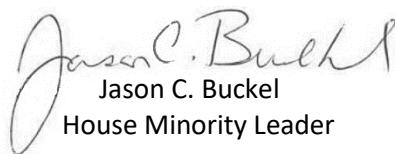
We write to echo the myriad of concerns regarding the list of nominees for the Accountability and Implementation Board and the process by which they were chosen.

While we do not dispute the overall qualifications of the nominees selected, we do have grave concerns over the lack of representation from the rural and exurban areas of the state. There are no nominees who live in or appear to have any significant connection to Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, or Southern Maryland. Instead, the nominees are exclusive to Central Maryland; representing only Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Montgomery County. These large and predominantly urban areas face different sets of challenges in their school systems. To limit the members of the Accountability and Implementation Board only to those from Central Maryland suggests a one-size-fits-all approach from the outset – which will undoubtedly be detrimental to its success *and* to the success of school systems across the state.

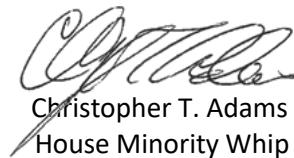
The process by which the nominees were selected also gives us pause. Technology has made government transparency incredibly easy and yet the majority of the five meetings the Nominating Committee held were closed sessions, including the voting session for the nominees. A commission selected to ensure accountability in a multi-billion-dollar school system should be constituted in full view of the public with the utmost transparency.

The lack of geographic diversity among the nominees, and the lack of transparency in the overall selection process leads us to respectfully request the Nominating Committee provide additional nominees for appointment to the Accountability and Implementation Board.

Very truly yours,



Jason C. Buckel
House Minority Leader



Christopher T. Adams
House Minority Whip