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## BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

September 17, 2021

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

Dear Governor Hogan:

We write in response to your letter of September 10, 2021, expressing your concerns about the demographic diversity of the slate of nine nominees submitted to you by the Nominating Committee on September 1 for your consideration in making the initial appointments to the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and the process for selecting these nominees. Your letter also requests that the Nominating Committee restart its application process in order to send you additional or substitute nominees to address your concerns. We respectfully decline to do so.

The Committee worked diligently to meet its statutory charge to select qualified nominees with expertise in the areas specified in the law and, *to the extent practicable*, that represent the diversity of the State. We are confident that we have fulfilled our charge. The Committee believes the process it followed in soliciting and selecting nominees was fair and known. It was important to the Committee to begin the process and make its recommendations as soon as possible so as not to further delay the appointment of the AIB, which is a critical component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to ensure that the policies and use of funds are implemented with fidelity and achieve the intended outcomes.

The Committee met publicly on July 8 to discuss the application process. The application and instructions on how to apply were posted on the Committee's website on July 12 and were emailed to over 40 media outlets around the State. The Committee members engaged in a rigorous review and discussion of the 43 applicants who applied by the August 4 deadline. These deliberations were conducted in closed session to keep the applicants' names and other personnel information confidential, as required by the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act.

The nine nominees selected by the Committee are well qualified and reflect the consensus of the members, who have a wide variety of experiences and points of view. The Committee was cognizant of its duty to reflect the diversity of the State to the extent practicable, and we believe we did so to the best of our ability given the applicant pool. When there are vacancies on the AIB, we hope that stakeholders will encourage a diverse group of individuals from across the State to apply for consideration.

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For these reasons, and after consulting with the Attorney General's Office, the Committee is not required to – and will not – submit additional names. We look forward to the announcement of your appointments by October 1, 2021.

Sincerely,

*Shanaysha Sauls*

Shanaysha M. Sauls  
Chair

*Paul Pinsky*

Senator Paul G. Pinsky  
Vice Chair

cc: President Bill Ferguson  
Speaker Adrienne A. Jones  
Nominating Committee Members