

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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September 24, 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,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the lack of representation from Southern Maryland on the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB). As you are aware, the AIB was created to have authority to oversee local school systems. As part of the establishment of the AIB, the Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee was tasked with nominating members for the AIB. In this process, your Committee was required to consider a number of factors in selecting members, including geographic diversity. For that reason, I was disappointed to learn that your Committee has not nominated any members from Southern Maryland. I strongly believe that, for the geographic diversity of our State to be appropriately reflected in the membership of this Board, the AIB should include a member from Southern Maryland who understands our unique needs and circumstances.

I represent two of the three Southern Maryland counties, and have seen the high-quality education offered by the school systems in both St. Mary's County and Calvert County. I feel that the successful models that these school systems offer would be very beneficial to the AIB, as they provide a different perspective which is critical to addressing the needs of students from different backgrounds around our State. St. Mary's and Calvert counties have both also consistently maintained some of the highest graduation rates in the State. In particular, these school systems have had to address the specific needs and challenges of more rural communities. St. Mary's County Public Schools provide an outstanding example of a school system that has faced and worked through many of these challenges and that has been very successful in educating students, particularly during the pandemic when other school systems have struggled.

As the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is implemented rural systems will face issues not experienced by larger systems in the state. The significant expansion of Pre-Kindergarten to include private providers meeting stringent quality standards accounting for at least 30% of eligible providers by 2022-2023 and rising to 50% by 2026-2027 is one such challenge. Additionally, rural systems such as those I represent already face difficulties in recruiting, hiring, and retaining certificated and professional staff. These challenges will intensify as systems must add significant numbers of staff mandated by the Blueprint legislation. It is imperative that the AIB have a member who is attuned to our unique challenges and prepared to specifically address those issues in their oversight role.

If the AIB is intended to provide oversight over all of Maryland's school systems, then it is imperative that its membership understand the needs of students from all parts of our State. It is my priority as a Senator to ensure that Southern Maryland is well-represented and has a strong voice at all levels of State government. I am confident that a member from our region would provide an important perspective as the AIB pursues its objectives. Therefore, I ask that your Committee does everything within its power to see that a member from Southern Maryland is nominated to serve on the AIB.

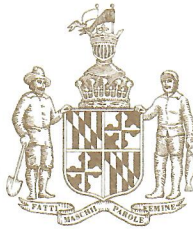
Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Washington County



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September 24, 2021

Dr. Shanaysha Sauls, Chair
Accountability and Implementation Board
PUP Building, 4th Floor
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Vice-Chair
Accountability and Implementation Board
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Dr. Sauls and Senator Pinsky,

The main objective of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) is to develop a strategic implementation plan for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Additionally, the AIB is tasked with measuring outcomes and success of the Blueprint based on data submitted from each local school board and other stakeholders. As the main entity responsible with overseeing this implementation for the hundreds of thousands of students and teachers in the state of Maryland, the AIB should be comprised of individuals that are reflective of all regions of the state. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The AIB is lacking representation from the Western most counties in Maryland, among many other jurisdictions. The nine member AIB contains nominees from just four of the twenty-four jurisdictions in Maryland, and this is simply unacceptable. Maryland's students and teachers have a variety of needs, opinions, and values that vary in each county and region. We are failing the citizens of our state by excluding certain areas of the populous in this process and denying them the right to be fairly represented.

I am also troubled by the way in which these nominees were selected. Among the five meetings which were conducted to search and select the nine members of the AIB, none were held publicly where citizens could voice their perspectives and questions. This lack of transparency is wrong, and the students and teachers of Maryland deserve better.

Given this disconcerting information, I am requesting that the application process be reopened immediately to provide time for a more inclusive group of nominees to be considered. Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman

MICHAEL J. HOUGH
Legislative District 4
Frederick and Carroll Counties

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MINORITY WHIP
—

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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September 24, 2021

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

Vice-Chair Paul Pinsky
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Sauls and Senator Pinsky,

As you are aware, the General Assembly established the Accountability and Implementation Board to oversee the billions the state is investing in education with the passage of the Kirwan bills. We granted this board enormous authority to hold school systems accountable for student outcomes and changes in achievement gaps. In order to carry out its mission, the board needs to reflect the diversity 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.

I'm very disappointed that the nominating committee has put forward nominees that represent just four of the state's jurisdictions, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Montgomery County.

There is no representation for Frederick County or Western Maryland whatsoever. Western Maryland is a major and important region of this state. We face different education challenges than other jurisdictions in the state and it is important that we have a voice on the board.

I request that the nominating committee reopen the application process and forward nominees to Governor Hogan that reflect the geographic diversity of the state, especially with regards to representation for Western Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Hough".

Senator Michael Hough
Frederick & Carroll Counties
Minority Whip