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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

September 30, 2021

Chair Shanaysha Sauls
PUP Building, 4th Floor
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21240

Dear Dr. Sauls:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your ongoing service and leadership as Chair of the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) Nominating Committee. The role that the AIB Nominating Committee has played in selecting a qualified slate of candidates for the Governor to choose from will be a pivotal factor in the Blueprint's success to ensure the transformational program is implemented with fidelity.

As I said when the Blueprint passed, the legislation is just the beginning of a 10-year journey for the State of Maryland to ensure that every single child, regardless of circumstance, can maximize their potential. I am confident that the slate of nominees your committee selected will ensure that school districts in every corner of the State will be supported in their implementation of the Blueprint, taking individualized community needs into account.

The Nominating Committee was limited by the applications it received, and the diversity of those applicants. At the same time, I firmly believe that broad-based support for the Blueprint and its implementation is of paramount importance. Although it is impossible for a 7 member board to be fully representative of 24 jurisdictions and the diversity of all Maryland residents, the confusion sowed by the letters the Nominating Committee has received around representation creates unnecessary doubt in the process.

To help alleviate any uncertainty around representation, I will advocate to the AIB, after it is named, that it create an advisory panel of sufficient size to incorporate all voices. I sincerely hope that all those who wrote letters will join me in an effort to build a robust slate of individuals for that panel, should the AIB choose to create it. Further, I am confident that the Nominating Committee will go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure concerns about geographic and racial diversity are considered when AIB members phase out after their terms end beginning in three years.

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to Maryland's children. Our State's economic future is dependent on preparing future generations to compete in a 21st century economy and the Blueprint will be foundational to Maryland's ongoing prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Ferguson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and "F".

Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate of Maryland

cc: Governor Larry Hogan
Speaker Adrienne A. Jones
Nominating Committee Members