

Testimony in support of SB0984.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

3/06/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0984 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0984, Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations

I am proud to support this bill submitted by my Senator Karen Lewis Young. It will strengthen the implementation of the Blueprint for Education by making necessary changes to continue to achieve the goals but do that in a more effective and efficient way.

The bill will change how the Secretary of Labor prioritizes activities, programs, and services in the administration of the business of the Maryland Department of Labor that assist in achieving a more effective implementation of the Blueprint. It will shift responsibilities from the Accountability and Implementation Board to the State Board of Education on the approval of some specifications for teachers for spending time outside the classroom. It will make the State BOE control the approval of career ladders for our teachers.

This bill reorganizes responsibilities under the Blueprint to ensure a more effective and efficient implementation of the mandates within the Blueprint. It will facilitate needed changes to achieve those goals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0984.

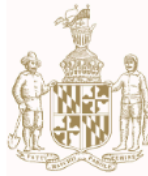
SB0984 Blueprint Cover Letter (written testimony).

Uploaded by: Senator Karen Lewis Young

Position: FAV

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Committee on Education, Energy,
and the Environment



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Senator Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Senator Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, MD

March 6th, 2024

SB0984 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of this committee,

Implementing the Blueprint has come with its fair share of wrinkles. I have spent a great deal of time working with my public school system to address some of the issues we are facing. Issues, I am certain, are not confined to Frederick County. SB984 will amend the Blueprint in five key ways:

- There are not enough participants in our apprenticeship programs to meet Blueprint goals. SB984 directs the Secretary of Labor to prioritize activities, programs, and services that contribute to achieving the statewide goal of having 45% of high school students complete an apprenticeship course by graduation by School Year 2030-31.
- SB984 requires the State Board of Education, rather than the Accountability and Implementation Board (A.I.B.), to approve when the career ladder phase-in becomes effective. Further, it empowers county boards of education to approve specifications for teachers spending time outside the classroom. Local control will help county boards of education implement the requirements in a way that makes sense for that jurisdiction.
- It permits county boards to limit the time-frame to school semesters as well as the number of courses a student can dually enroll in. This will help jurisdictions protect funding and make sure the opportunity is available for the greatest number of students.

Finally, A.I.B. in consultation with the State Department of Education to conduct two feasibility studies:

- Create a study on the logistics of providing additional publicly funded pre-kindergarten, including considerations such as construction and private pre-kindergarten providers receiving public funds.
- Create a study of the teacher career ladder, considering aspects such as working time outside of the school year, school resources for educators to progress their career, and other regulations to understand what may be impeding the professional advancement of educators.

This bill will empower local jurisdictions, engage the Secretary of Labor in meeting our statewide goals, and help meet the needs of our teachers. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Senator Karen Lewis Young

SB984 - Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk

Position: UNF



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of
Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Oppose

March 6, 2024

As unwavering advocates for equitable education reform, Strong Schools Maryland is a network dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **Strong Schools Maryland urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Alterations**, proposing to change decision making and oversight responsibilities in various circumstances from the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and the State Department of Education (MSDE). This proposed legislation threatens to derail the progress and equity promised by the Blueprint while also limiting opportunities for students.

Under Senate Bill 984, the proposed alterations to implementation and monitoring authorities would reallocate responsibilities among key entities such as the AIB, MSDE, and local county boards of education. This change risks enacting ineffective accountability measures and raises concerns regarding oversight within the education system. The proposed legislation consolidates both the responsibility for implementation and accountability within the same entities, thereby threatening the integrity of the fifth pillar of the Blueprint: Governance and Accountability.

Not only does this bill violate the Governance and Accountability pillar of the Blueprint, it also conflicts with the intent of pillar three, College and Career Readiness. The proposed legislation allows counties to restrict student engagement in dually enrolled courses through caps on course loads and limitations on the times of year during which high school students may be dually enrolled.

Strong Schools Maryland envisions a future where we only seek to expand opportunities for transparency/accountability within the school system and also strive to enhance opportunities for our students to work to their fullest potential. We urge the General Assembly to reject the proposed legislation that threatens the stability of Blueprint implementation and instead focus on initiatives that uphold the integrity of the provisions of the law.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 984.

For more information, contact Kenzie Funk: kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org

SB 984- Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Shamoyia Gardiner

Position: UNF



**Testimony to the Senate Budget & Taxation and Education, Energy, & the Environment
Committees
In OPPOSITION to
Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations**

March 6, 2024

The Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint coalition) is a statewide group of more than 50 organizations within and beyond the realm of education, all focused on ensuring the Blueprint is fully funded and implemented with fidelity. **The Blueprint Coalition stands in firm opposition to Senate Bill 984: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations**

SB984 makes major changes to the administrative and implementation monitoring authorities of the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board, Maryland State Department of Education, and local county boards of education, often placing major provisions of Blueprint implementation and accountability monitoring into the same hands.

The bill also continues to limit student participation in dually-enrolled courses by capping course load and limiting the times of year high school students can be dually enrolled, in direct conflict with the intent of pillar 3 of the Blueprint law.

SB984 threatens the stability of Blueprint implementation at a time when the AIB and MSDE are finally working well together. For those reasons, the undersigned members of **the Blueprint Coalition urge an unfavorable report.**

Strong Schools Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST)
Maryland Coalition for Community Schools
Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity In Education (MAREE)
Bard High School Early College Baltimore
Maryland State Education Association
Baltimore Teachers Union, Local 340, AFT, AFL-CIO

League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Education Coalition
ACLU of Maryland
Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)