

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

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School Commissioners

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

May 17, 2012

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Position Statement
City Council Bill 12-0082

Dear Council President Young:

On May 7, 2012 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill, regarding the dedication of all revenue generated by the proposed Bed Capacity Fees to the Public School Construction and Renovation Special Fund, for the specific purposes of school construction and capital projects.

Baltimore City Public Schools' (City Schools) facilities are in a state of woeful disrepair. The current backlog for school construction and renovation has been estimated at anywhere from \$1 billion to as much as \$2.8 billion in order to create a more suitable, healthier and more supportive learning environment for our children. High quality school facilities have a measurable, positive impact on student learning, attendance and graduation.

Any dedicated, consistent and predictable revenue sources provided by Baltimore City can be leveraged to produce significant funds targeted at City Schools' facility issues. City Schools therefore welcomes the identification of any resources dedicated to school construction and/or renovation. In this case it is revenue from Bed Capacity Fees; however, we support any dedicated revenue source that allows us to leverage dollars for our significant construction needs, because it is in the best interests of our students.

City Schools will support this effort, and we will gladly testify to that extent. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

C: Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison
John Walker, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
J. Keith Scroggins, Chief Operating Officer

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