

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Catherine E. Pugh**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Cheryl A. Casciani**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

**Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

October 30, 2017

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

Re: City Council Bill 17-0117

Dear Council President Young:

On September 11, 2017 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill to prohibit food service facilities from using disposable food service ware made from polystyrene foam.

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) supports efforts to ban the use of polystyrene foam in food service, since it has a proven negative impact on individuals' health and the environment at large. More than 80 jurisdictions across the country have introduced legislation to ban or partially ban the use of polystyrene, including Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

Currently, City Schools serves more than 100,000 meals every day. Our Office of Food and Nutrition Services has been exploring the elimination of polystyrene trays and switching to compostable tray options. This change has yet to occur, because the school district is moving toward issuing a contract with a vendor who will supply compostable tray options at a competitive price.

City Schools appreciates the opportunity to participate in this process, and will be pleased to provide more detailed information if requested.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Sonja Brookins Santelises, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer