

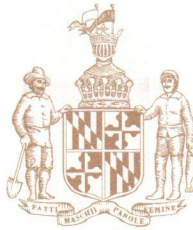
NANCY J. KING
39th Legislative District
Montgomery County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair
Education, Business, and
Administration Subcommittee

Senate Chair
Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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October 2, 2015

The Honorable George Leventhal
President, Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leventhal,

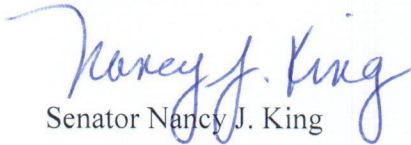
As a former Montgomery County Board of Education member and President, and as a Maryland State Senator, I have often relied on the stellar work of the Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO). Historically, the OLO has had a well-deserved reputation for excellence and their reports were very helpful in shaping important debates especially on issues relating to Montgomery County Public Schools. I have just finished reading OLO's recent report, *Resources and Staffing Among Schools*, and I must say that I am disappointed by its flawed premise and the conclusions drawn from it.

I am particularly concerned by the report's claims that millions of dollars intended for students impacted by poverty are being spent elsewhere. The implication is that resources meant for closing the achievement gap are being supplanted. This is a serious charge, but OLO's conclusion is based on a complete misrepresentation of the intent and purpose of funding under the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002*. As a member of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee and Chair of the Education subcommittee, my colleagues and I have spent countless hours reviewing the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* and OLO's recent interpretation of the *Act* is certainly not my understanding of the vision for the deployment of those funds.

The coming legislative session is going to be quite challenging; we will need all hands on deck to ensure that Montgomery County gets all the funding that our classrooms so desperately need. The work of the Montgomery County Council in partnership with our delegation and the school system has been invaluable in advocating for and receiving funding. Reports and messages that send conflicting signals to Annapolis are not helpful; especially to the extent that we might be spending precious time in Annapolis debunking the assertions in this report.

The Montgomery County school system has provided a comprehensive response to the report; I hope that the Montgomery County Council takes that response into consideration as you go into the operating budget season. Indeed, the report makes the point that we need to continue our ongoing conversation on the important topic of achievement for all our children and I couldn't agree more. As chair of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation, I look forward to our continued partnership in the interest of our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy J. King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" being the most prominent.

Senator Nancy J. King

Copy to:

Montgomery County Council Members
Montgomery County Board of Education Members
Mr. Larry Bowers, Interim Superintendent