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To the County Council of Baltimore County and the five finalist candidates for County Executive,

There are challenging headwinds coming our way around funding public education in Baltimore County. These are at all levels of government: an incoming federal administration hostile to public education, who further, are aiming to reduce the federal workforce which will reduce local revenues, along with a state budget deficit and an upcoming serious conversation about potential cuts to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

In this moment we must work together to select the leader who will help navigate these difficult waters. But the selection of the leader is only the first step. That person must authentically work with us as we face the challenges and work through them in a way that moves our students, our educators, and our county forward. A strong school system helps grow a strong county.

Since my first day as President of The Teachers Association of Baltimore County, my message has been clear: We need to do all we can to recruit and retain educators. Our children deserve nothing less than a secure and stable cadre of excited and energized educators to help build and protect our future.

The Teachers Association of Baltimore County calls upon our County Council to select a County Executive who commits to all the hard work facing us. But especially, as we are heading into the second year of a negotiated three year deal meant to entice educators to both come to our county and teach our amazing students, and for those already here to stay for their whole careers, we need to be sure our negotiated agreements are funded.

To whomever will take the mantle of leadership as our next County Executive, we call on you to recognize the agreement we already have and to make the hard choices needed to make sure our system, educators, and students have the resources needed. A fully funded contract is an integral part of this. Every decision must focus on what is best for our students.

We are not afraid of challenges; we are educators. And we know that you who chose public service are not afraid to be bold when the times call for it. We are in those times now. We must not retreat from our mission to provide a world class education to every child in Baltimore County. TABCO will never pull back from that charge, and we challenge you, our county leaders, to stand with us as we continue doing all we can for the future of our children, for the future of our county, our state, and our nation.

In Solidarity,



Cindy L. Sexton
President



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