



Opportunities for Teachers,
Results for Urban Students

**TESTIMONY OF ALICE CAIN, EVP OF TEACH PLUS IN SUPPORT OF THE
MARYLAND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE**

BEFORE

MARYLAND STATE SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 17, 2016

Good afternoon. My name is Alice Johnson Cain and I am the Executive Vice President of Teach Plus, a national teacher leadership organization that works in communities across the country to close the achievement gap. We recently expanded to Maryland and we work with some of the very best teachers in the state – including outstanding teachers from Baltimore City, Prince George’s County, Montgomery County and Anne Arundel County. All of our teachers are high-performing and all teach in high-poverty schools.

We appreciate Senator Ferguson’s efforts around the Next Generation Schools initiative to address a critical need: creating innovative and socioeconomically diverse learning opportunities in Maryland, but this will not happen by chance. It will take time, leadership, and proactive effort and, to that end, we are particularly supportive of the creation of an entity that can help drive this work forward, the Maryland Education Development Collaborative (EDCo).

EDCo would be a quasi-state entity that would operate outside of traditional structures to drive innovative school design and 21st Century learning, all with a focus on creating more diverse learning opportunities for Maryland students. The structure is largely derived from Maryland’s Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), which is charged with innovative business development in Maryland. Just like NIH does for national health issues or DARPA does for the federal Defense Department, EDCo would be a public research and development hub for innovative learning in Maryland.

Maryland has a strong public school system and, as a parent, I am grateful for it every day. The reality is that the world we live in and that our children will inherit – with its global economy – changes every day. This bill will put our state on the cutting edge in getting and keeping our students where they need to be to thrive in the 21st century globalized workforce.

As an educator, and as a parent, I urge you to support this bill. Thank you.