Baltimore City Council Passes Resolution Supporting Suit Against Maryland State Board of Education Over Constitutionally-Inadequate Funding for Baltimore Schools

The Baltimore City Council voted today to pass a resolution supporting a lawsuit brought by city schoolchildren and their families challenging inadequate state funding for Baltimore City schools. Represented by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) and the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, the lawsuit seeks to hold Maryland accountable for its failure to allocate the proper funding to ensure Baltimore students receive a quality education and to address the abysmal physical conditions of school facilities that undermine students’ ability to learn.

“Elected officials throughout Maryland have failed Baltimore students and their families for decades, but we hope this city council resolution represents a start to a much-needed paradigm shift,” said Ajmel Quereshi, LDF Senior Counsel. “Students cannot learn in decrepit facilities that lack basic necessities like heating or air conditioning, and we’re heartened by this endorsement of our efforts to secure the resources Baltimore schoolchildren deserve.”

“We thank Councilperson Bill Henry and the Baltimore City Council as a whole for passing this resolution and for understanding that the needs and constitutional rights of our schoolchildren cannot be ignored,” said Dana Vickers Shelley, Executive Director of the ACLU of Maryland. “I want to thank Councilmember Henry for spearheading this act of solidarity with students and parents in Baltimore City, uniting to reject the unacceptable, decades-long denial of funds from the State for Baltimore schools.”

Read LDF and ACLU of Maryland’s full petition here.

Learn more about the history of the Bradford lawsuit here.

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