

R039-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL**
20 **SYSTEM**

30 **WHEREAS:** The Baltimore City School System is currently one of the worst school systems
40 in America, and;

50 **WHEREAS:** The Baltimore City School System is ranked twenty-first among Maryland
60 Public School Systems, and;

70 **WHEREAS:** In a move to cut costs facing a looming \$64 million debt the BCSS laid off a
80 considerable numbers of teachers and staff in late 2003, and;

90 **WHEREAS:** In 2006 the BCSS consolidated schools in the city because the facilities were
100 under utilized, student protesters countered that this was the case due to the fact
110 the class size in the schools was around forty students per class, and;

120 **WHEREAS:** In a Poll conducted in July 2007, citizens of Baltimore city gave the school
130 system a grade of 1.45, a D+ when asked their opinion of the system; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** In 2006 Baltimore was ranked as the 12th deadliest city in America, with six
150 times the murder rate of New York City, and;

160 **WHEREAS:** The crime rate in Baltimore City will continue to be alarmingly high while the
170 school system continues to fail the children and leave them on the streets
180 woefully unprepared for the future, and;

190 **WHEREAS:** When faced with the problem of a failing school system in Cleveland, Ohio
200 created the Pilot Project Scholarship Program, and;

210 **WHEREAS:** The program gave low income families the opportunity to send their children to
220 private schools to receive the good education they were not getting in the
230 Cleveland School System, and;

240 **WHEREAS:** The program was created only after a federal judge issued a court order stating
250 that the State Superintendent must oversee the Cleveland School System because
260 of it's consistent failure to provide an adequate education.

270 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That, to ensure children in Baltimore City receive
280 an education to prepare them for the future the Maryland Student Legislature
290 urges the Maryland General Assembly to create a program similar to the Ohio
300 Pilot Project Scholarship Program to give low-income parents the opportunity to
310 send their children to private schools.

320 **MANDATES:** Martin O'Malley, Governor
330 Michael Busch, Speaker of the House
340 Kumar Barve, Houes Majority Leader
350 Anthony O'Donnell, House Minority Leader
360 Edward Kasemeyer, Senate Majority Leader
370 David Brinkley, Senate Minority Leader

SPONSOR:
Paul R Schuman,
Co-DCP, UMBC