

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Alex Acosta  
United States Department of Labor  
Frances Perkins Building  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

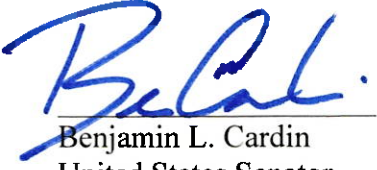
It has recently come to our attention that the Baltimore City Public School System (City Schools) may lose the services of 25 longtime teachers at the start of next school year due to City Schools' multiple Permanent Labor Certification Program (PERM) reviews stretching back to 2013. We urge you to give prompt consideration to the audit of City Schools' PERM application so our community does not lose the services of these dedicated educators.


City Schools serves more than 80,000 students and engages in concerted, ongoing efforts to recruit, train, and retain U.S. teachers. Despite these efforts, the school system faces consistent shortages of highly-qualified teachers in several high-need subject areas such as special education, mathematics and science. In an effort to acquire the highly-skilled teachers needed to serve Baltimore students, City Schools conducted international recruitment efforts in the early 2000s and these 25 teachers were among those recruited. They have worked in City Schools for 8 to 12 years, with several now serving in school leadership roles.

Since April 2013, City Schools has worked with the Department of Labor to obtain a PERM certification for these 25 individuals. Despite the school system's best efforts, the Department has reviewed, audited, and denied the initial PERM application and recently informed City Schools that the second PERM application would undergo an audit that will take several months to complete. Without a decision made on the PERM application by June 30<sup>th</sup>, these 25 individuals who have dutifully served Baltimore students for a decade will be forced to leave the community they now call home due to expired H-1B visas. It would be a loss for the Baltimore community and undercut the ability of City Schools to provide a high-quality education in important academic areas that prepare students, including those with special needs, for in-demand jobs.

We respectfully urge you to give prompt consideration to the audit of City Schools' PERM application, in accordance with established policies and procedures. Thank you for your consideration.

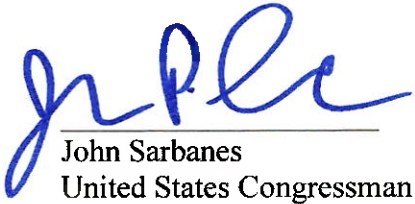
Sincerely,

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
United States Congressman

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
United States Congressman

  
John Sarbanes  
United States Congressman