The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Commends Select Senators from Fairfax County for their Recognition of the
Importance of Maintaining Local School Board Control of Mitigation Measures
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Whereas,
The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic required the enactment of various transmission
mitigation measures in Fairfax County and worldwide to limit the spreading of the virus,
and its emerging variants, and protect vulnerable populations.

During the February 2022 legislative session, Republicans advanced SB739 which would
remove the ability of local school boards to use mask mandates as a method of COVID-
19 transmission mitigation. Nearly all Fairfax County Democratic Senators voted against
this bill due to its conflict with CDC guidance and recommendations from most medical
and pediatric associations and its lack of a sunset clause. Passage of this bill prevents
local school boards from using mask mandates as part of mitigation measures against any
future COVID-19 variants, or against any future pandemics, regardless of how dangerous
they might be to students and staff.

The March 5, 2022 Eleventh Congressional District Democratic Convention ratified a
resolution commending “Those local Virginia jurisdiction supervisors, councilpersons,
school officials and parents who are continuing to comply with CDC guidelines during the
Covid-19 pandemic” and urged “all other local Virginia jurisdiction supervisors,
councilpersons, and school officials to comply with CDC guidelines during the Covid-19
pandemic.”

Bolstering the ability of our local school board to take the necessary measures to protect
students and staff has been a priority of this committee since the November 2020
resolution in support of the Fairfax County School Board.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to supporting the Fairfax County School Board in its
   ongoing efforts to keep students and staff safe.
2. Officially thanks the following Senators for their opposition to a bill that makes it more
difficult for the Fairfax County School Board to keep students and staff safe:

   Senator Dick Saslaw        Senator Jennifer Boysko
   Senator Adam Ebbin         Senator Scott Surovell
   Senator Barbara Favola     Senator Dave Marsden
   Senator Janet Howell       Senator George Barker

PASSED and APPROVED on this 22nd day of March 2022.