



City of Bowie

Timothy J. Adams

Mayor

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HB 1260 – HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES – FUNDING

TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY ADAMS

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

As the First African American Mayor for the Great City of Bowie, a proud alumnus of Xavier University (an HBCU), and an Honorary Doctorate Recipient from Bowie State University, I appear before this body, in my personal capacity, as a supporter of HB 1260.

In our official capacity as elected public servants, we have the privilege of meeting people who come from different cultures, and ethnicities. One passion that I believe each of them share, is a sincere admiration, support, and respect for our public colleges and universities. Unfortunately, Madame Chair, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have not been funded at the same level as many of our other public institutions.

In 2013 the U.S District Court for the District of Maryland ruled that the state had done great harm to their HBCUs because of the unconstitutional and discriminatory practice of allowing unnecessary duplication of academic programs by non-HBCU colleges and universities. Madame Speaker I have seen in my early years how damaging discrimination can be when left unchecked, and it is disheartening to see that even now in 2020 our Historically Black Colleges and universities are being subjected to the same deep-rooted institutionalized racism. To echo the words of Dr. Carter G. Woodson “we understand that the miseducation of our children is one of the greatest threats to our society and community”.

Currently, these institutions provide affordable, high quality higher educational opportunities for all students. In a recent article by the Baltimore Sun, it was reported that a rising number of non-African American students are attending Maryland HBCUs. These institutions will help us grow our economy, and provide educational opportunities to students across a broad spectrum of abilities. These additional resources will be invaluable to the continued legacy and of achievement of Maryland’s HBCUs.

On January 5th the City of Bowie became the first municipality in Maryland to support Bowie State University, by endorsing the proposed settlement of the longstanding lawsuit against the State of Maryland. We were one part of a larger coalition of alumni from Maryland Historically Black Colleges and Universities that pledged to do everything within their power to protect the very institutions that opened their doors to them when no other institution would. I pray that you all stand with us and support HB 1260.

Thank you for your support.
Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Adams

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
CONCERNING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
SETTLEMENT

FOR the purpose of supporting the ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and the offer made by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Coalition regarding the lawsuit against the State and urging Governor Hogan and the General Assembly to settle the Coalition lawsuit in accordance with the Court ruling and the offer made by the Coalition.

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (“HBCUs”), one of which is geographically located in the “Greater City of Bowie area” in the City of Bowie and the others within the greater Baltimore metropolitan region; and]

WHEREAS, HBCUs are an integral part of the Maryland higher education enterprise and provide educational opportunities for a large segment of the population of Prince George’s County and produce a continuing supply of educators for the Prince George’s County public school system; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs serve as economic engines in their communities by employing scores of Maryland residents and contributing enormously to the economy of Maryland through the revenue generated by these institutions and the expenditures made by students, faculty, staff, and supporters; and

WHEREAS, The HBCUs are major players in the social and cultural life of the City with their artifacts, athletic programs, unique lecture series, and other special events; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of HBCU students, alumni, faculty, and friends sued the State of Maryland in 2006, to combat segregation perpetrated by the State; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled in 2013 that the State had done great harm to the HBCUs because of its unconstitutional and discriminatory practice of allowing unnecessary duplication of academic programs by non-HBCU colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The District Court ordered in 2017 that the State remedy the violation by establishing at each of the HBCUs a set of unique, high demand programs with appropriate funding for scholarships, marketing, and recruitment; and

WHEREAS, The HBCU Coalition recently offered to settle the case for \$577 million over a 10-year period; and

WHEREAS, We affirm that Bowie State university's success is important to the vitality of this City; and

WHEREAS, We further affirm that we stand with alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community and pledge our allegiance to Bowie State University as it currently is constituted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, That the City Council supports the ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and the offer made by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Coalition regarding the lawsuit against the State and urges Governor Hogan and the General Assembly to settle the Coalition lawsuit in accordance with the Court ruling and the offer made by the Coalition.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of Maryland, the Attorney General of Maryland, the President of Bowie State University, the Interim President of Coppin State University, the President of Morgan State University, the President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and the Honorable Delegation of Representatives that represent Bowie to the Maryland General Assembly.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a meeting on _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND

Awilda Hernandez
City Clerk

Timothy J. Adams
Mayor