

February 25, 2020

To: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chairman Appropriations Committee

Fr: Monica A. Roebuck, Bowie State University Alumni and Teacher (MAT)

RE: HB 1260 Historically Black Colleges and Universities Funding

To Chairman McIntosh and the appropriations committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee about this very important topic. My name is Monica Roebuck, and I come before you as a teacher and a proud alumni of Bowie State University. ***I urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill and fully fund the HBCUs in Maryland.*** In 2013 Catherine Black ruled against the state of MD noting that Maryland had a shameful history of two systems of higher education. Judge Blake further ordered Maryland to fix this disparity This is why we are here today. I support equitable funding of the HBCUs.. I also support oversight and attention so This is why we are here today. I support equitable funding of the HBCUs.. I also support oversight and attention so This is why we are here today. I support equitable funding of the HBCUs.. I also support oversight and attention so

To provide a little background information about myself I entered Bowie State University in 1997 to start a teaching career. When I entered on the campus what I liked most was it was a nurturing environment, had small classes and one on one attention. This is what sets Bowie apart, the teachers who cared and gave 100%. They instilled a sense of pride and excellence in education. I owe a lot to Bowie State University. After graduating I landed a job that gave me financial stability and I became self sufficient. I later created my own non-profit organization to give back to the community. I was later appointed to an advisory board position at the School of Education at Bowie State University, where I helped to fundraise and to give back to students attending Bowie State University. My role as an AVID teacher is to help prepare students for college. I always promote colleges in the state of Maryland and of course HBCUs. But how can I in good conscience promote a school that I know is not up to par with some of the other schools. A school that is inferior and below standards is not something I want to recommend. This school is lacking things the other schools have and that's now fair. Imagine the possibilities if the school was fully funded and imagine how great things could be?

In conclusion, the state of Maryland has a debt. A debt that is owed not just to the 4 institutions but to the tens of thousands of students who attend the Bowie, Coppin, Morgan and University Maryland Eastern Shore. The students who attend these schools seeking a quality education and a better way of life. They are owed quality teachers, a world class education and the best facilities that money can buy. This really is not a just a money issue, this is an ethical issue and an issue of morality. Maryland has been found guilty and now is the time to correct their mistakes, a time to right their wrong. The price tag on this problem is absolutely justified. The 1 billion dollars owed is necessary to one correct the problem that Maryland put in place but to set these schools on a path for success, so these schools can not just survive but

to thrive, in a global society. This is a pressing issue and an urgent matter. I urge this committee to vote to fully fund Maryland's HBCUs. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,

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