



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.



February 25, 2020

Tamara Davis Brown, Esq.
Legislative Chair, Upsilon Tau Omega Chapter & Legislative Agenda Chair, MD Chapters
12012 Bork Drive
Clinton, MD 20735

The Honorable Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Room 121 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SUPPORT for HB1260 Historically Black Colleges and Universities Funding

Dear Chairman McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is committed to the fight for equitable funding for Maryland's four HBCUs. As an international organization that was founded on the campus of a Historically Black University, our legacy and connections run deep within these very important educational institutions. I am a member of Upsilon Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The chapter services Ft. Washington, MD are southern Prince George's County.

At this time, yet another bill has been introduced in another State of Maryland legislative session to seek equitable funding that is due to our illustrious institutions. Speaker Jones' bill, HB 1260 Historically Black Colleges and Universities Funding requests shy of \$580 million to be paid out over 10 years amongst the four Maryland HBCUs; this is just half the court-ordered amount that was established over a decade ago. I believe that her bill is a more than fair request, considering that the schools are owed over \$1 billion. The State of Maryland must strive to eliminate all vestiges of inequality and inequity within the Maryland Higher Education System. We urge our legislators to work to remedy the significant damage that has been caused to Maryland's HBCUs over the years and up to present day.

I strongly urge you to support the legislation for full, equitable yearly funding to the HBCUs of Maryland. I stand with the thousands of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore who believe that these institutions matter and that they should receive their full, equitable funding for years to come.

Respectfully,

Tamara Davis Brown, Esq.

Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc.