

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 1043: Historically Black Institutions -State Funding

Presented by

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Madame Chair, members of the Committee, I am Deborah Hayman, President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, National Alumni Association. I, along with my colleagues from the other three Historically Black Universities, are here representing Maryland's HBCU, alumni. As you heard earlier, those national alumni presidents are: Dr. Mary Owens-Southall of Coppin State University; Ms. Anita Ford for Mr. Ricardo Mitchell of Bowie University and Ms. Phyllis Davis of Morgan State University.

We are appearing in support of Senate Bill: 1043 with the amendments proposed by the Coalition for Equity and Excellence for Higher Education. Those amendments provide for a more equitable distribution of the settlement fund among the HBCU's with a minimum allotment per campus of no less than \$10,000.000.00 and once established, the per minimum allotment would remain the same for the 10-year period from 2022 to 2031.

When properly amended, Senate Bill 1043 could be among the most consequential and far-reaching legislation enacted in the history of Maryland higher education. It would provide sustained funding for expanding HBCU inventories of unique and high demand programs and improving existing offerings; addressing sagging enrollments, increase retention and graduation and increasing the overall attractiveness of the campus to students and faculty.

These enhancements will unmistakably aid in our efforts to promote our alma mater to school principals and counselors, high school students, potential employers and corporate partners as well as would-be donors. Too often we have pursued student only to lose him or her because our campus did not offer the desired program and/or financial aid package to compete with more attractive offers. That has been frustrating, but we know from experience the value of these universities and the difference they make in the lives of so many young. We know the contributions they make in our communities, the state and the nation.

We wish to thank Speaker Adrienne Jones and her colleagues for their supporting sponsorship of Senate Bill 1043 and ask the committee to give it your approval.