

MIKKYO McDANIEL
HBCU STUDENT

2613 Moore Avenue
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SB 1043

March 11, 2020

TO: Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Mikkyo McDaniel, HBCU Student
RE: SENATE BILL 1043 – Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Funding

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that I Mikkyo McDaniel supports Senate Bill (SB) 1043.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) have been around for over 150 years and counting. These institutions allowed black individuals like myself obtain an education beyond elementary and secondary school during a time when already established higher educational institutions were not accepting of non-whites enrolling in their college.

I have attended Bowie State University and currently attend Morgan State University, both of which were part of the Maryland District Court case and are currently demanding funding from the state. Attending these two exceptional institutions further taught me the importance of higher education. With the help of Historically Black Colleges/Universities, black people have become doctors, lawyers, surgeons, professors, politicians, engineers, and most of all, whatever we dreamed of becoming.

I have personally experienced the difference in funding and resources between Predominantly White Institutions (PWI's) and HBCUs in Maryland, I was allowed to complete some classes at one of the top Predominantly White Institutions (PWI) in Maryland. The HBCUs I have attended deserve funding the same way the PWI I attended has and will continue to have adequate funding. All students have the right to choose what institution they would like to attend, whether it is an HBCU or PWI. Not because of lack of finances but by choice.

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Personally speaking, I have noticed the differences between an HBCU and PWI here in Maryland. PWI's tend to have smaller class sizes, state of the art technology, accessibility to personal laptops, one-on-one tutoring by instructors, and in some cases pipelines to other top PWI's. I can remember different reactions from others when I express attending an HBCU. Unknowingly, realizing they are presenting indirect assumptions of my capability to complete a job simply because of where my education is being completed.

Therefore, SB 1043 is recognizing that Historically Black College and Universities deserve the funding afforded to them. We can not risk any of our HBCUs being unfunded or treated unfairly because that will move us backward then forward.

I respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 1043.