

EQUITY FOR ALL KIDS



To: Chair Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
From: Shamoyia Gardiner, Education Policy Director
Re: Senate Bill 1043: Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Funding
Date: March 11, 2020
Position: Support

Nationally, a disheartening trend has emerged: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are being forced to end operations and shutter their doors. Maryland is currently jeopardizing the existence and operations of its HBCUs—which is tantamount to jeopardizing its own educational and economic future.

HBCUs:

- Rely on federal, state, and local funding more heavily if public (54% of total revenue as compared to 38% for non-HBCU public institutions)
- Receive less revenue in the form of private gifts, grants, and contract (17% of total revenue versus 25% for non-HBCUs)
- Experienced the sharpest decline in federal funding between 2003 and 2015 (as high as a 42% reduction)
- Have significantly smaller endowments than non-HBCUs (at least 70% less)
- Serve a student population that is about 60% low-income, first-generation¹

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Connection

Any attempt to diversify the racial composition of Maryland's educator and school-based workforce that does not explicitly invest in the teacher colleges at the state's HBCUs will not achieve its aims sustainably. HBCUs, while only about 3% of the national share of colleges and universities, prepare 50% of the Black teachers in the country. The data renders HBCU funding and Maryland's teacher diversity (thus, the success of students of color in the state) absolutely inextricable.²

Senate Bill 1043 should not be necessary. That the legislative branch of government must step in to assume responsibility that belongs to the executive branch and was determined by the judicial branch signifies that Maryland's democracy is in danger and with it, the rights and liberties of its citizens. **ACY strongly urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 1043 because if this body does not take corrective action, Maryland's HBCUs and the communities they serve may never see justice done.**

¹ American Council on Education. *Public and Private Investments and Divestments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. January 2019.

² Dr. Leslie Fenwick. *Teacher Preparation Innovation and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)*. January 2016.