



***Our Strength is in Our Numbers
Our Power is in Our Unity***

March 3, 2020

Chairwoman Shane Pendergrass
Health & Government Operations Committee
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 933/House Bill 747 - State and Local Procurement - Payment Practices

Dear Senator Hayes and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the members of The Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce (GBBCC), we are writing in support of the above cited House and Senate Bills on State and Local Procurement Payment Practices.

Access to Capital is not only a matter of securing a bank loan or line of credit. Payments from services rendered on state and local procurement contracts are critical to the bottom line for contractors and MBE firms; and payments on state and local procurements contribute significantly to cash flow management for small businesses.

This legislative initiative to reduce the number of days (from 45 to 15 days) on state and local procurement contracts is a step in the right direction. We further support the repeal of government practices requiring contractors to submit an invoice within a certain amount of time in order to receive interest payments. Such practices are especially burdensome on participating small business operations.

On behalf of the membership of the Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce, we request a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 933 and House Bill 747.

Sincerely,

Kendrick Tilghman

Kendrick Tilghman, President

Debra Keller-Greene

Debra Keller-Greene, Chairwoman