

Derrick Hinton

HB917/SB606

I am Derrick Hinton a junior bioinformatics major from Bowie State University and the president of the BSU chapter of the NAACP. I am here today to provide my testimony for our fallen bulldog and my friend Lt. Richard Collins III.

On May 20, 2017, I got a call from my friend Jenai Molden informing me that my close family friend Lt. Richard Collins III was murdered earlier that morning on the campus of the University of Maryland. You never know how big of an impact someone will have on your life until they are gone. Richard Collins III was someone who I looked up to growing up. I always heard our moms talking about whose son is causing more problems, it was like their competition for the day. I was a lost soul in high school not knowing what I needed to do or what direction to move towards. But Richard helped me get on the right track. He died two months before I was to attend college not knowing which college to pick I only went to Bowie because of him. I never thought I would end up at Bowie State testifying on my friend's behalf. Never would have thought I would witness his little sister graduate without him all because of a student's drunken split-second decision. The BSU student population and I learned about the Collins case and how it wasn't a hate crime. Today I still wrestle with how a drunken student with aggressive racial views can stab a black student at a bus stop and it not be considered a hate crime. Sometimes it makes me wonder if the roles were flipped would the outcomes still be the same?

The proposed bill states that “ Motivated either in whole or in part on, commit a crime or attempt or threaten to commit a crime against that person or group; Maybe justice would have been served for Richard.

