



Children's Playhouse of MD, Inc.
In residence at CCBC Essex
7201 Rossville Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21237

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Perseveration of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

This bill provides critical investment for the Maryland arts sector.

Since receiving this \$1 million POCA distribution in each of the past 5 years, MSAC has increased its granting programs and now supports almost 300 arts organizations and hundreds of artists and arts education initiatives throughout the state, just one of which is the Children's Playhouse of Maryland, Inc. Together we continue to offer low and/or no cost theatre arts training and performance opportunities for youth 18 and under in the Greater Baltimore area. Along with training, CPM provides access to quality, affordable live theatre programming for Maryland families.

Additionally, MSAC has increased its investment in County Arts Agencies and artist specific grants. This bill will not only protect these investments but help MSAC continue to grow its offerings for the Maryland arts sector.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Smith

Managing & Artistic Director
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