



**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.

Our community nonprofit organization has seen the strong work and impact of MSAC throughout our city and the state. MSAC endeavors that have directly impacted our community include the recent designation of Pennsylvania Avenue as a state arts district, funding support towards our Jubilee Arts program that serves 2,000 people annually, and grants to individual artists that beautify and enrich our city with their work.

All of these items also bring well documented returns on investment that outweigh the actual public funding invested. This makes support of MSAC not only important for enriching our communities and state through art, but also an important economic engineer that spurs critical investment and revenues for individuals, the city, and state.

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

Sincerely,

*Todd Marcus*

Todd Marcus  
Executive Director