

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh,
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
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Johns Hopkins **supports HB918 Higher Education – Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Underrepresented Teachers.** This bill would create a loan assistance repayment program for teachers who are black, Latino, male or a member of another group historically underrepresented in the teaching field. Creating opportunities to encourage individuals into the teaching profession is an important role for the State. This role becomes even more critical when the individuals entering the teaching profession are underrepresented.

Johns Hopkins has many graduates from the School of Education (SOE) who would benefit from this program. The SOE awarded 983 degrees during the 2019-2020 academic year. The SOE offers graduate degrees and certificates that prepare students to enter the teacher workforce and it prioritizes diversity and inclusion. Additionally, the SOE has programs, training and curriculum to promote these values amongst its students and thus take with them into the professional field.

It is well established that there are many benefits to students who have diverse teachers throughout their education. For example, a 2018 Johns Hopkins study found having one black teacher in elementary school not only made children more likely to graduate high school, it made them significantly more likely to enroll in college.

Johns Hopkins understands the value of creating opportunities for underrepresented populations and increasing diversity in the teacher population. For these reasons and more, Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable** report on **HB918 Higher Education – Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Underrepresented Teachers**