



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3557 • 301-858-3557 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3557 • Fax 410-841-3498 • 301-858-3498 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate Darryl Barnes, District 25

1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39

Treasurer

Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10

Secretary

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

Financial Secretary

Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32

Chaplain

Senator Joanne C. Benson, District 24

Parliamentarian

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

Historian

Delegate Talmadge Branch, District 45

Executive Director

Stephanie Hall

MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47
Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41
Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28
Senator Melony Griffith, District 25
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40
Senator Michael A. Jackson, District 27
Senator Delores G. Kelley, District 10
Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45
Senator Obie Patterson, District 26
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20
Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44
Senator Mary L. Washington, Ph.D, District 43
Senator Ron Watson, Ph.D, District 23
Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40
Delegate Curt Anderson, District 43
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, District 13
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43
Delegate Chanel A. Branch, District 45
Delegate Tony Bridges, District 41
Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr., District 18
Delegate Nick Charles, District 25
Delegate Frank M. Conaway, Jr., District 40
Delegate Debra Davis, District 28
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A
Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 47B
Delegate Andrea Harrison, District 24
Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23B
Delegate Faye Martin Howell, District 24
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A
Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10
Delegate Rachel Jones, District 27B
Delegate Cheryl Landis, District 23B
Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46
Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, District 21
Delegate Roxane Prettyman, District 44A
Delegate Elizabeth "Susie" Proctor, District 27A
Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14
Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 37A
Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45
Delegate Brenda J. Thiam, Ph.D, District 2B
Delegate Karen Toles, District 25
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26
Delegate Jay Walker, District 26
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, District 22
Delegate Nicole Williams, District 22
Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28

February 2, 2022

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington
Vice Chair, Ways and Means

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 84- Education- Crimes on School Grounds- Application. **This bill is a 2022 legislative priority of the Black Caucus.**

Black and brown children are disproportionately charged under this law which ultimately contributes to the school to prison pipeline. The state of Maryland currently has the highest incarceration rate of black males between the ages of 18-24. According to 2020 data, 82% of children charged with disturbing school activities or personnel in Maryland were Black children and children of color. Because of implicit bias, people will often perceive behavior of Black children as more threatening compared to white children of the same age.

This legislation would amend a section of the Maryland Education Code that allows students to be charged with a misdemeanor crime if they "willfully disturb, or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly conduct of the activities, administration, or classes of any institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education" or "threaten" students or staff. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 84.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Melissa Wells

Melissa Wells
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland