



*Office of the President*

**Morgan State University Testimony  
Dr. David Wilson, President**

**Senate Bill 248 - Institutions of Higher Education - Transcripts - Prohibition on  
Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt**

*Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs*

**February 8, 2023**

**Favorable with Amendments**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on Senate Bill 248. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Prohibiting an institution of higher education from refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript or taking other punitive measures regarding a student's transcript request because the student owes a debt to the institution of higher education.*

Morgan State University is the premier public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

Over the decades, Morgan State University has made student success a top priority, and our recent successes have enabled the University to win several national awards for college completion. With that said, we annually reinvest approximately \$23M of our resources in student scholarships and institutional-based aid – a higher percentage than any institution in Maryland. Morgan works quite assiduously to ensure that we assist as many students financially as our resources will allow.

Morgan State University supports SB248 in spirit. We offer two major caveats: we would suggest a cap on forgiveness of up to \$500; and we would offer full support of the Bill if the Legislature would further amend it to reimburse Universities for losses. Morgan currently has \$2.4M of student receivables on its financial statements. Without amendments, like the ones we suggest, the Bill would reduce the University's ability to collect these critically needed resources, resulting in money lost to the University. Additionally, this might have an impact on whether new students will not want to pay for college because they know this Bill protects them.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the State in reaching a solution to support our students as we continue to grow the future and lead the world.