

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Delegate Jamila Woods, representing Legislative District 26, in Prince George's County Maryland. I'm here to request a favorable response to HB245, entitled **Minority Business Enterprise Program - Reporting - List of Units**.

In alignment with our Governor's request to "Leave no One Behind," this bill will establish a system whereby the office of State Procurement, in the Department of General Services, will be required to compile and maintain an accurate and concise list of certain units (also known as reporting sources) of the Executive Branch of State Government, and independent agencies serving as units, to report certain information annually to the Governor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs, also known as GOSBA, with relationship to procurement and minority business enterprises. The reporting units represent those organizations authorized to enter a procurement contract with the aforementioned government agencies, however, also include agencies not reporting through a large government agency.

While there are reporting entities who appropriately respond in a timely and concise manner, this Legislation is necessary due to concerning gaps in the comprehensive compilation of reporting units, resulting in incomplete information provided to the Department of Legislative Services Library, and the Joint Committee on Professional Oversight. This results in the unintended consequences of inaccurate and incomplete procurement information for Small, Minority and Women businesses, in both the DLS and Maryland General Assembly's examination of requirements for participating agencies.

Protecting the accounting of minority business interests are paramount to assuring a diverse inclusion of quality participation in procurement contracts in the State of Maryland. Assuring the accurate documentation of these interests, through knowledge and accountability of those responsible for procurement contracts, is imperative. This legislation, now requiring the detailed representation of all reporting units, as well as providing alerts to potentially new agencies of the reporting requirements, is essential. The Office of State Procurement's accurate list of all units required to report the certification agencies, within 90 days, following the end of the fiscal year, would resolve the current matter.

I am requesting a favorable response to this legislation.