

HB 348
FAVORABLE

To: Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the House of Delegates Appropriation Committee
From: Bob Douglas, Chair, Leadership Advisory Council, Schaefer Center for Public Policy, University of Baltimore.

Delegates: **Remember when you were first attracted to public service? It may have been someone who inspired you or perhaps witnessing a good deed. The Schaefer Center works to attract young Marylanders to public service or to improve their public service skills.** This is an essential task if we are to fill the thousands of vacancies in public sector positions. Since August 2022, when the first State funds arrived at the Schaefer Center to increase recruitment and training efforts, the Center has trained and developed 287 young Marylanders. In 18 months, they have served in all but a few of the State's 24 subdivisions. The government agencies benefiting from these activities and the Marylanders participating need certainty that the programs will continue. Please go the Center's website (<https://schaefercenter.ubalt.edu/>) to learn more about it and see how many State leaders support it.

This bill will provide budgetary certainty enabling government agencies, young Marylanders and the Schaefer Center to plan, rather than coming to Annapolis each winter to ask for continued funding. This is a modest request in a \$60 billion budget, but its return on investment is incalculable for decades to come. Please Provide a favorable report for HB 348 so that the Schaefer Center can continue to attract and develop public servants for Maryland.

