

TESTIMONY OF LA'SHAWN MANUEL

**HB 348
FAVORABLE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

TO: Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee

I'm La'Shawn Manuel, a Baltimore City resident and Human Services Administration undergrad at the University of Baltimore. I also participate in the Schaefer Center for Public Policy NextGen Leaders for Public Service Program.

I am writing in support of HB 348.

Through the NextGen program, I received a paid internship with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

My internship with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment allows me to contribute to lead surveillance efforts, evaluate certifications, ensure property owner compliance, file lab results, and process referrals for children affected by lead poisoning. This hands-on experience strengthens my academic knowledge and provides a firsthand understanding of Maryland's efforts in lead prevention.

This experience provides valuable insights into Maryland's approach to lead prevention. This program has increased my interest in making a positive impact within government agencies in the future. I believe that supporting initiatives like HB 348 is a step to making an impact in other students' lives.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to return a favorable report on HB 348.

La'Shawn Manuel