



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

STACY L. RODGERS
County Administrative Officer

January 31, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear members of the House Appropriations Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 348, *University of Baltimore - Schaefer Center for Public Policy - Funding*. As a career public servant for more than 30 years, I know firsthand how important it is to prepare emerging leaders for careers in public service. Investments in providing training, guidance, and mentoring opportunities to ensure that the next generation of leaders is well prepared are resources well spent.

I am honored to serve as the Chairperson of the Dean's Advisory Board for the University of Baltimore School of Public Affairs. As a Board we work diligently to assist the School of Public Affairs and the Schaefer Center to identify opportunities for students and public employees who have begun their careers that enhance their skills and capabilities to lead and manage public programs and organizations. The Schaefer Center's initiatives like the Certified Public Manager Program scholarships (CPM), the NextGen Internship Program and base support for the Center provide invaluable opportunities for students and emerging leaders in state and local government to prepare for leadership.

Through my role as the current President Elect of the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, I also understand the need for further career enhancement opportunities beyond the completion of degree programs. Efforts like NextGen and the CPM programs provide that extra level of skill enhancement and analytical training that leaders must have in order to be successful as they assume mid-level and senior leadership roles. This is the case across the country, particularly at the state and local levels of government. As many seasoned leaders prepare to exit the workforce these programs are needed more than ever.

If our government organizations are going to be successful, they must have well trained, passionate leaders that are willing and able to do the job. The Schaefer Center has a demonstrated track record in preparing professionals for leadership and excellence in governance.

The requested funding will greatly enhance the Center's capacity to serve as a key resource to state and local government organizations. I kindly request your favorable consideration for the requested resources.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy L. Rodgers".

Stacy L. Rodgers, MPA
County Administrative Officer

cc: Dr. Roger Hartley, Dean, University of Baltimore School of Public Affairs
Dr. Ann Cotten, Executive Director, Schaefer Center for Public Policy