



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

March 5, 2025

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen R. Toles, District 25

Treasurer

Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40

Secretary

Delegate Jamila J. Woods, District 26

Financial Secretary

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

Chaplain

Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr., District 27B

Parliamentarian

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

Historian

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur, District 11A

Executive Director

Ufuoma O. Agarin, J.D.

MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47
Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10
Senator Nick Charles, District 25
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40
Senator Shaneka Henson, District 30
Senator Carl Jackson, District 8
Senator Michael A. Jackson, District 27
Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45
Senator C. Anthony Muse, District 26
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20
Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44
Senator Alonzo T. Washington, District 22
Senator Mary L. Washington, District 43
Senator Ron Watson, District 23
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39
Delegate Jacqueline T. Addison, District 45
Delegate Tiffany Alston, District 24
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterberry, District 13
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32
Delegate Adrian Boato, District 23
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A
Delegate Frank M. Conway, Jr., District 40
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19
Delegate Debra Davis, District 28
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A
Delegate Kevin M. Harris, District 27A
Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A
Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., District 34A
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10
Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46
Delegate Ashanti Martinez, District 22
Delegate Alethaia McCaskill, District 44B
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14
Delegate LaToya Nkongolo, District 31
Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnik, District 21
Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10
Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14
Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25
Delegate Denise G. Roberts, District 25
Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32
Delegate Malcolm P. Ruff, District 41
Delegate Gary Simmons, District 12B
Delegate Deni Tavaras, District 47B
Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26
Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10
Delegate Nicole A. Williams, District 22
Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28
Delegate Greg Wims, District 39
Delegate Caylin Young, District 45

Chair Brian J. Feldman

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for Senate Bill 583 (SB583) – Legislative Scholarship Programs – Eligibility and Use – Real Estate Appraisal Program. This bill expands access to critical scholarship funding for students pursuing careers in real estate appraisal, an industry where Black professionals remain significantly underrepresented. By allowing legislative scholarships to be used for the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Program, SB583 creates new pathways for Black Marylanders to enter a lucrative and essential profession that directly impacts economic mobility and community wealth. **This bill is a 2025 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

For too long, systemic barriers have prevented Black Marylanders from fully participating in the real estate industry. Studies have consistently shown that Black homeowners and communities face significant disparities in property appraisals, often leading to lower home values and reduced access to generational wealth-building opportunities. Increasing the number of Black appraisers is a crucial step in addressing appraisal bias and ensuring fair and equitable property valuations across the state.

SB583 provides a much-needed solution by expanding the accessibility of scholarship funding to cover the costs of real estate appraisal training and certification. Many Black students face financial hurdles that prevent them from pursuing specialized training programs that lead to high-paying careers. By removing these financial barriers, SB583 ensures that more Black Marylanders can enter the appraisal profession, increasing representation and fostering economic growth within historically marginalized communities.

Additionally, this bill aligns with Maryland's commitment to workforce development and economic equity. Real estate appraisal is a critical industry that directly affects property ownership, lending practices, and community investment. Providing financial support for Black students to pursue careers in this field helps combat systemic disparities in property valuation and homeownership while also creating new professional opportunities.

By investing in the education and professional development of Black Marylanders, SB583 contributes to long-term economic stability and

wealth-building within our communities. Encouraging more Black appraisers will not only diversify the profession but also help ensure fair housing practices and equitable property valuations, benefiting all Maryland residents.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports SB583.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland