



Southern Maryland Chapter

March 23, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment
Committee

Re: House Bill 1352 Sickle Cell Disease – Institutions of Higher Education - Policies,
Procedures and Education Campaigns

Passing legislation for sickle cell disease-related absences in higher institutions is crucial to ensure students with this condition receive the necessary accommodations to thrive academically. We support establishing clear guidelines for absences due to a sickle cell crisis or medical appointments to allow students time off without penalties and allow access to notes or recordings of missed classes.

Implement training programs for faculty and staff to raise awareness and improve understanding of sickle cell disease. My friend Tony, an outstanding Artist, quit college because of the lack of concern surrounding his many appointments and the pain he experienced from a sickle cell crisis. Allow flexibility in course loads. Provide resources and support through campus health services, including counseling and pain management options tailored for sickle cell students.

House Bill 1352 will raise awareness of sickle cell disease and provide higher institutions with a more inclusive environment supporting the success of students living with sickle cell disease. We are requesting a favorable vote for HB 1352.

Respectfully submitted,
Southern Maryland Chapter of National Coalition of 100 Black Women

