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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 22nd, 2020

**Testimony of Senator Antonio Hayes in Support of SB 27:
Higher Education -- Policy on Student Concerns About Athletic Programs and Activities --
Short Title**

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Senate Bill 798 was passed into law during the 2019 Session with overwhelming support from the Maryland Senate and Governor Hogan. This bill created standard procedures for adopting a written policy for receiving and addressing student concerns about an institution's athletic programs and activities. This policy protects all students in Maryland's higher education institutions from any discrimination in retribution to sharing concerns about a school's athletic programs or policies. This law also allows ease of access for any student looking to retain a copy of policies or changes to a school's athletic programs. Senate Bill 798 was a success in its ability to ensure the safety and freedoms of any student who wishes to partake in athletic programs at high education institutions.

Senate Bill 27 is being introduced this session for the purpose of establishing the short title "Jordan McNair Act" for Subtitle 16 of Title 11 of the Education Article, under which the previous bill was passed into law. Jordan McNair was a freshman student and football player at the University of Maryland in 2018 when he suffered from a heat induced stroke after an off-season team workout. Jordan was airlifted to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Hospital where he eventually passed away on June 13th, 2018.

Taking into account that Senate Bill 798 was proposed in response to the tragic incident of Jordan McNair's death, we find it appropriate that this law be named in honor of his legacy, titling it the "Jordan McNair Act." In adopting this legislation, we preserve the memory of Jordan McNair and spread awareness of his story in order to prevent other tragedies from occurring under similar circumstances.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 27

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
Chair, Baltimore City Senate Delegation
40th Legislative District - MD