



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-3557 • 301-858-3557 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3557 • Fax 410-841-3498 • 301-858-3498 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### Chair

Delegate Darryl Barnes, District 25

### 1st Vice Chair

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28

### 2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10

### Treasurer

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

### Secretary

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

### Financial Secretary

Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 37A

### Chaplain

Senator Joanne C. Benson, District 24

### Parliamentarian

Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44

### Historian

Delegate Talmadge Branch, District 45

### Executive Director

Stephanie Hall

## MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47

Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41

Senator Melony Griffith, District 25

Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40

Senator Delores G. Kelley, District 10

Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45

Senator Obie Patterson, District 26

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20

Senator Mary L. Washington, Ph.D., District 43

Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39

Delegate Curt Anderson, District 43

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, District 13

Delegate Erik L. Barron, District 24

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32

Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43

Delegate Chanel A. Branch, District 45

Delegate Tony Bridges, District 41

Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr., District 18

Delegate Nick Charles, District 25

Delegate Frank M. Conaway, Jr., District 40

Delegate Debra Davis, District 28

Delegate Derek E. Davis, District 25

Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A

Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 47B

Delegate Andrea Harrison, District 24

Delegate Keith E. Haynes, District 44A

Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30

Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12

Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23B

Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A

Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8

Delegate Michael A. Jackson, District 27B

Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10

Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46

Delegate Nick J. Mosby, District 40

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, District 21

Delegate Elizabeth "Susie" Proctor, District 27A

Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14

Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26

Delegate Jay Walker, District 26

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, District 22

Delegate Ron Watson Ph.D., District 23B

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

Delegate Nicole Williams, District 22

Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28

February 25, 2020

Senator Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance

Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Vice Chair, Finance

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for SB 641- Maryland Wage and Hour Law and Maryland Wage Payment and Collection Law- Revisions (Maryland Wage Protection Act). The purpose of this legislation is to close the loopholes in state law that facilitate the commission of wage theft, ensuring that bedrock protections like the \$15 minimum wage exist not just in theory but are effective in practice.

Black workers experience wage theft at alarming and disproportionate rates. National data shows, for instance, that Black workers are three times as likely as their white counterparts to suffer minimum wage violations. These workers are often working around the clock, at wage rates that are already set very low, only to find their paychecks come up short and making it near impossible to pay for basic necessities or save for the future.

We feel this legislation is important because it ensures that Black workers and all workers receive their hard-earned wages by strengthening Maryland law to combat the most common practices. For this reason, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports SB 641.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes  
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus  
of Maryland

Edith Patterson  
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black  
Caucus of Maryland