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February 25, 2020

Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
 Chair, HGO

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
 Vice Chair, HGO

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer favorable support for HB 716 –Tuskegee Airman Commemoration Day. The purpose of this legislation is requiring the Governor annually to proclaim the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American military pilots who served the United States with distinction during World War II. They overcame a history of harsh and racial barriers to serve in meaningful roles in the defense of our country.

We feel this legislation is important because March is the month that the first aviation cadet completed pilot training and received their wings. And former President George Bush presented the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal on March 27, 2007. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 716.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes  
 Chair, Legislative Black Caucus  
 of Maryland

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

*Edith Patterson*