



## Voices Maryland

### **Committee: Appropriations**

**Testimony on: SB0001-- Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Funding**

**Sponsor: Senator Charles Sydnor, Beidle, Feldman, Griffith, Hayes, Hettleman, Kelley, Lam, Patterson, Waldstreicher, Washington, Young, Augustine, Benson, Carozza, Carter, Eckardt, Edwards, Elfreth, Ellis, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hester, Jackson, Kagan, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lee, McCray, Peters, Pinsky, Reilly, Rosapepe, Salling, Simonaire, Smith, West, and Zucker**

**Organization: Voices Maryland**

**Person Submitting: Sarahia Benn, Legislative Executive**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 3, 2021**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in support of SB0001. Voices Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts marginalized communities and veterans affairs. Educational legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently.

### **Why we reinforce you support SB0001:**

- Grant state funding long overdue to historically black colleges and universities(HBCUs) in Maryland
- Funding would begin FY2023, and it would be extended through 2032
- establishing new programs and funding under appreciated programs
- providing scholarships and financial aid
- recruiting and trading faculty
- creating additional academic support for students

- Funding for marketing to attract new students
- Address some inequities in current educational system

**Summary:** This bill is a good start but by no means an ends. We at Voices Maryland support funding HBCUs because those who are educated in these fine institutions are better equipped to help to solve issues in marginalized and Veteran communities in Maryland. Our goal is to help support those who are willing to pay it forward and this bill is a great start to doing so. For far too long there have been large inequities in the Maryland University system and this funding will be a needed supplement to help boost the HBCUs not to supplant any other existing funding that currently exists. We are asking that you all continue to move this through committees for all these and more reasons.

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for SB0001.

Respectfully,



Sarahia Benn

Voices Legislative Executive

**(Dedicated to Historically Black Colleges)**

"At a time when many schools barred their doors to black Americans, these colleges offered the best, and often the only, opportunity for a higher education."

President George Bush