

Bill number and link: SB0001

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

My name is Lori Kronser. I am a resident of District 23B and a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. I am providing testimony **in support of Senate Bill 1 relating to the funding of HBCUs.**

This bill ensures Historically Black Colleges and Universities are properly funded and that ensure unnecessary duplication of programs does not occur in the MD school system that unfairly biases against HBCUs. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have played a vital role in providing education to millions of people across the country, especially those who were historically excluded from traditional secondary education opportunities and for whom most models of secondary education were not designed. It comes as no surprise that these institutions built to provide alternative means of education for those who are discriminated against, receive their own institutional discrimination in funding and programs enacted in the University of Maryland school systems as stated by the opinion of the United States District Court of Maryland in THE COALITION FOR EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION, ET AL. V. MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, ET AL., 06-CV-02773-CCB.

This gives Maryland a moral imperative to ensure these institutions like Morgan State, Bowie State, Coppin University, and University of Maryland Eastern shore are provided reparations for the institutionally racist wrongs done to them. Moreover, the prospering of these universities and additional funding to them will only provide ten-fold their costs in the advancement of the disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and Latinx student bodies that attend them and bring the world on a greater path toward equity.

We have our legal mandate and moral imperative. Now all we need is our legislative courage to make this happen. I strongly encourage you to vote in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1.**

Thank you.

Lori Kronser
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