

MAGGIE McINTOSH
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Chair

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3407 · 301-858-3407
800-492-7122 Ext. 3407
Fax 410-841-3416 · 301-858-3416
Maggie.McIntosh@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB937 State Lottery Fund- Maryland Humanities Council Funding

Vice-Chair Chang and members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am pleased today to present House Bill 937, titled State Lottery Fund- Maryland Humanities Council Funding.

This bill defines funding sources for an annual grant of 150,000 to Maryland Humanities stipulate in primary legislation. The bill requires the Comptroller to produce 150,000 from the State Lottery Fund to the Maryland Humanities Council. This original bill introduced in 2016 stipulated funding for two years beginning in FY2018. The update in 2018 made the funding perpetual passed unanimously in both chambers in each year they have been considered.

The Maryland Humanities Council is an educational non-profit serving community in all 23 counties and Baltimore City every year. As a former educator, I am passionate about programs that provide students with knowledge and expose to the humanities. This funding is a significant asset to the Humanities Council. The Council offers ten virtual programs that are diverse and inclusive and help connect individuals to endless resources and instructions. One example is the Museum on Main Street program. The Smithsonian Institution and MOMS collaboration bring a traveling exhibition committed to bringing humanities programs, historical societies, and cultural revenues to light in Maryland. These unique programs encourage young and old Maryland residents to discover new information while exploring Maryland's historical background. Maryland Humanities also provides grants to other non-profits in support of projects with a humanities focus.

Today you will hear from several individuals who will speak to the significance and need for this funding. You will listen to testimony from Ms. Lindsey Baker, the Maryland Humanities Executive Director. As well as hear from Mr. Matthew Plantnik, who will speak to his experience as a student in the Humanities largest and longest-running project, Maryland History Day. You will also be able to read written testimony from Janet Clark Green, a Prince Georges County teacher and special education director. Ms. Clark-Green speaks to the significance these programs have directly on students and how much value and encouragement the Council offers young people while supporting their efforts to explore and become involved in literature and historical activities. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill because of the substantial impact the council programs have on not just Maryland students but residents of all ages.