

Dear Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of white folks working as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. I am a resident of MD District 43. I am testifying in **support of Senate Bill 1**. 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 discriminate against, received 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 people of color student bodies that attend them and bring the world on a greater path towards 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 for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Smeton
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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