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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 858: Coppin State University
Funding**

March 3rd, 2021

Dear Chairperson Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Time and time again, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (“HBCUs”) in this state have been told that despite the importance of their mission, adequate funding is simply unattainable. Coppin State University in Baltimore is one of these crucial institutions that has been systematically underfunded by the state of Maryland. Coppin is currently under the new leadership of Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, and he is ready to take on the challenge of increased enrollment at this institution. As a multigenerational learning environment that has been nationally recognized for its community engagement, it deserves to have the resources necessary to reach its full potential.

SB858 represents an opportunity to invest in Coppin’s students and give them the resources necessary to succeed. This bill would include \$3,000,000 in the annual capital or operating budget for fiscal years 2023 through 2026 for CSU. This would be a total of \$12,000,000 over these 4 fiscal years. In order to accommodate the goal of increasing enrollment numbers, **Coppin needs on campus housing facilities.** Last year, 900 families requested on campus housing, while the university only had 650 units, far less than other schools in the University System of Maryland. Under this bill, funds would go towards establishing the groundwork for two new dormitories and a new student union building. The University System of Maryland would also prioritize public-private partnership agreements to build these facilities, which would be efficient and with less cost from the State of Maryland or with amendment prioritize the System Fund Capital Project Program.

In addition, Coppin State University is one of the State’s leading schools in added-value for it’s graduates. According to a Brookings Institute research analysis of the Obama administration’s college scorecard database; Coppin University graduates are ranked second only to Johns Hopkins University based on a value-added approach. Coppin State is delivering an outstanding

performance given the limited resources it is afforded and has proven itself to be an invaluable institution for the State of Maryland

In light of the underfunding of institutions so essential to the education of Maryland's Black community, this bill is a step in the right direction for Maryland's students. We need to show our commitment to equity and give CSU the funding that it deserves. In our Baltimorean community, Coppin's partnerships generate graduates who make lasting impacts on their communities and regions beyond.

20% of all Black graduates matriculate through HBCUs despite the fact that HCBUs comprise just 3% of this country's colleges and universities. As this Assembly continues to evaluate legislation with heightened scrutiny to ensure equality and inclusion, **SB 858** is an opportunity to take action in the best interests of Maryland's students.

Thus, I request a favorable report on **SB 858**.

Respectfully,



Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District - MD