

Provide More Funding to HBCUs

Bill number and link: HB0001, SB0001

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore, MD that you represent and I am emailing in **support of Senate Bill 1** as part of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. This bill ensures Historically Black Colleges and Universities are properly funded and unnecessary duplication of programs does not occur in the MD school system. Basically, this bill will address some of the unfair biases against HBCUs that have been in place for a long time. This bill will bring Maryland one step closer to racial equity.

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. In 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, these institutions were victims of discrimination in funding and programs. It is ironic that HBCUs, which were established as an alternative means of education for people who were victims of discrimination, were themselves victims of discrimination.

This gives Maryland a moral imperative to ensure these institutions--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. Maryland will gain from this wealth of human capital and talent, and in doing so advance the world on a 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**.