

Ron L. Watson, PhD
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and Biotechnology

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 207
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3448
Ron.Watson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 16th, 2021

To Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and the members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I first want to thank everyone for the opportunity to present this bill before you all today. In the words of writer, Robert Heinlein "A generation which ignores history has no past and no future." Today, I present to you the opportunity to not only appreciate history that has already been made by our valued American heroes but to **make** history as well. House Bill 586 will allow us as a state to collectively acknowledge and memorialize the contributions made by an elite group of soldiers, who valiantly fought for our country. The Tuskegee Airmen made countless sacrifices, even while facing unthinkable wartime conditions, segregation, and racism. Nevertheless, these brave men dedicated their lives to protecting the rights and freedoms of all Americans with no hesitation when they answered the call of duty.

HB586 will recognize the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day for the state of Maryland and seeks to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe this day through informative programs and activities. This bill made it out of the Senate last session after passing favorably by a full vote of 47-0 and was in the process of reaching the Health and Government Operations committee but was unfortunately postponed due the onset of the Covid-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, we are faced with the opportunity to finish the job and make things right. Let's give these brave and honorable heroes the recognition they truly deserve. **It is for these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on HB586.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron L. Watson".

Delegate Ron Watson
Prince George's County District 23B