KWEISI MFUME
10 East Lee Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 10, 2022

Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

    Re: Support for House Bill 1048 – Commission on African American
              History and Culture, Alterations

Dear Chair McIntosh:

Please accept this letter of support for *House Bill 1048 - Commission on African American History and Culture, Alterations*.

Since its founding in 1969, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (the "Commission") has been committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting, and promoting Maryland's African American heritage. The key roles of the 21-seat gubernatorial Commission include: the operation of The Banneker-Douglass Museum, the state's official museum on African American History and Culture; administration of the state's $1-million African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program; and providing technical assistance to institutions and organizations around the state. I support this measure as a member of the Commission and appeal to you for your consideration of this request.

With the passage of time, The Banneker-Douglass Museum needs capital repairs including repairs to the heating and cooling systems, elevator repairs, technology upgrades, restoration of the original flooring, and updates to permanent exhibits to include additional Maryland Black History Milestones. Likewise, predictable long-term inflation over the years (i.e., the passage of time) require an increase in the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program to $1.6 million. House Bill 1048 achieves these goals while providing the Commission independence from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

      On behalf of all of us in Maryland who believe in the valued work of the Commission, thank you for receiving this letter of support for House Bill 1048 and best wishes.

                         Sincerely,

                         Rep. Kweisi Mfume

cc: Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture