



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 1088 - African American Heritage Preservation Program - Annual Appropriation and Alterations

Appropriations Committee

March 8, 2022

Chair McIntosh and Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 1088 - African American Heritage Preservation Program - Annual Appropriation and Alterations**. I would like to thank Speaker Jones and Delegates Brooks and Sample-Hughes for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

This legislation would effectively quintuple the budget for the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Fund of the Maryland Historical Trust, which has created such vibrant and meaningful contributions to our state's historical and cultural landscape as the Banneker-Douglas Museum, which I had the privilege to visit recently. With this bill's increased investment, a variety of projects to preserve African American heritage sites (museums, historic homes, communities, schools, churches, and more) will be properly funded, and all of Maryland will benefit from the recognition and conservation of these hallowed places as parts of our shared history.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 1088. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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