

Testimony for the House Appropriations Committee
HB 1469: School Arts Fund - Established
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Position: FAVORABLE

My name is J'Naya Harris and I am a senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. I am here today to voice my support of HB 1469. Art is important to my peers and I because it gives us a voice. Art is what allows young people, or people of any age to let out those inner feelings and express themselves fully. Without access to arts, many young people will be robbed from experiencing their full potential greatness.

When I first started school, I attended a Baltimore County school. I had the opportunity to explore my art interests with visual art, music, and more when I attended a county school. I remember being able to paint as much as I wanted without even realizing that it was a privilege. In the 2nd grade, I moved from the county to the city, and had to attend a city school. My experience at a city school was totally different from a county school. From the supplies, to the environment, and the programs, there was an extremely noticeable difference in the county and city schools as a whole.

To think that I would not even know what that experience was like had I not moved, amazes me till this day. I am happy to have had that experience with both schools because I now understand the importance of using my voice when it comes to equity and arts.

HB 1469 will take a big step toward making sure all students have access to the supplies and equipment needed for art, music, theater, dance, and media arts - no matter where they live in Baltimore. Thank you for supporting HB1469.