

Favorable Testimony for Maryland Corps (SB228/HB0443)

To: House Appropriations Committee Chair, Delegate McIntosh  
From: Nigel-Ray Garcia, District 40 resident  
Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland Corps (SB228)

Thank you for reading my favorable testimony. My first experience working for a nonprofit organization was as an organizer for the New York Public Interest Research Group in 2007. Being a recent college graduate I didn't have the professional guidance to help me understand how impactful that experience was. There was no clear direction on how I could grow with that organization or meaningful financial support to continue working for the organization.

I decided to focus my career search on other industries, I spent the following years working in many different industries. I learned a great deal from all of those experiences but something was still missing, it wasn't until I started my job at the nonprofit Baltimore Corps almost 5 years ago that I realized what was missing. I didn't feel connected to the work, connected to the community, or connected to my teammates in those different job experiences. The social impact sector has given me a deeper sense of community, it has allowed me to work with some of the sharpest minds that you would find in any industry.

Maryland Corp (SB228/HB0443) will solve that dilemma I was facing 16 years ago. Maryland Corp will provide young people with the professional guidance that they need to fully understand how they can fit into this sector, Maryland corp also will view the young program participant as whole beings with different and complex needs. Wraparound services will be provided so that the young people can focus on this impactful experience, they can focus on building a bond of unity with their other cohort participants. Maryland Corps will also provide competitive pay so that they can also realize that serving their community is not only their civic responsibility but also a viable career option.

Thank you once again for reading my testimony.

Nigel-Ray Garcia