



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David Wilson, President**

House Bill 1098 (*Delegate Pena-Melnyk*) / **Senate Bill 0832** (*Senator Feldman*)
Public Institutions of Higher Education – Students With Chronic Health Conditions –
Case Manager
Committee: Appropriations
March 8, 2022

Favorable With Amendments

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 1098. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Requiring each public institution of higher education to designate a case manager for students with chronic health conditions; and specifying the duties of the case manager.*

Morgan State University is the premier public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

Over the decades, Morgan State University has made student success a top priority, to include the health and well-being of the campus community. For example, in our 2021-2030 strategic plan, our number 1 goal is to “Enhance Student Success and Well-Being.” Along with our student success component, Morgan considers students holistically which include physical and mental well-being. With that said, we provide for the well-being of students through the University Health Center, University Counseling Center, Office of Retention, and Disabilities Office. In addition, the Morgan Campus Health Monitoring and Response Team (MCHMRT) was added during the pandemic, to track and respond to testing protocols. Morgan works quite assiduously to ensure that we assist students financially as our resources will allow.

Morgan State University supports HB1098 in spirit. We offer one major caveat: we would offer full support of the Bill if the Legislature would further amend it to provide Universities with funding for the cost of a new employee to fill the case manager position.

Without amendments, like the one we suggest, the Bill would increase the University's budget costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the State in reaching a solution to support our students as we continue to grow the future and lead the world.