

M. Bond Written Testimony- House Appropriations Committee - 3/18/22

Dear Chairman and Committee,

My name is Maya Bond and I am testifying in favor of Bill 0228. Being a Baltimore transplant from the Bronx, New York I decided to apply to Baltimore Corps for financial stability and access to healthcare. In 2017, I had just graduated from Loyola University Maryland and was having a hard time getting an entry-level position although I was qualified. I was encouraged by Baltimore Corps alumni and grant awardees that organizations like Baltimore Corps provide the kind of opportunity that I was looking for.

During my fellowship with the Baltimore City Police Department Consent Decree Implementation Unit, I was able to receive a higher paying entry-level job than those I was applying for in the communications field at the time, in addition to health benefits. I was able to get on my feet and started making my own roots in the city I've come to love. I have since worked with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement utilizing my communications degree and community engagement skills to further public safety in Baltimore City.

Service provided me with an entirely new perspective on how I can live my life. I am even more devoted than ever to creating more equitable outcomes for historically under-served communities not just in Baltimore but throughout the entire state of Maryland. Maryland Corps, Bill 0228, would not only provide an opportunity for transplants like myself to contribute to bettering the Maryland community but also provide broader access to wrap-around services like mental health care that is especially critical- now more than ever. I humbly urge the committee to pass this bill to build a better future for our state. Thank you.