

SB228

Favorable

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Elizabeth A. Hafey
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Johns Hopkins **supports Senate Bill 228 Maryland Corps Program – Revisions.** This bill provides essential resources to support the Maryland Corps Program, allowing the Program to expand its value in Maryland.

The Maryland Corps was created in 2016 to recruit 100 young people to do a service year in Maryland through providing a \$15,000 per year stipend, as well as \$6,000 educational award. The Maryland Corps board has not been appointed yet. The Maryland Corps Program Fund has never been fully-funded. A mandatory appropriation of \$150,000 was passed in 2020, but was vetoed and will not be available until fiscal year 2023.

SB228 creates an infrastructure that supports the program and establishes a quasi-public agency to coordinate services, removes barriers to entry so those who would benefit most from service years have the ability to participate, and builds new pathways to services.

Johns Hopkins University has many talented students that are dedicated to bettering their communities and would welcome the opportunities provided through the expanded Maryland Corps Program. The Maryland Corps fills a crucial need of encouraging young people to stay in Maryland by creating internships and employment opportunities for the best and brightest to deliver intensive service within the entire State.

For too long, the Maryland Corps Program has been under-resourced. **Johns Hopkins urges a favorable report on SB228.** This is an important legislation that would create opportunities for many Marylanders and provide long-term benefits to the state.