

**UNFAVORABLE on HB1088**

vince mcavoy baltimore md

Dear Lawmakers,

I strongly urge an UNFavorable on HB1088.

This bill would be a very large expenditure for a single year. I ask the committee to reject spending \$5MILLION each year under a mandate. This is sheer favoritism based on race. It's not done for any other group. And it is a wrongful precedent.

This expenditure comes amid record un-/under-employment in Baltimore City with a large number of blacks relying on state programs. The record job gains we had just a few years ago have evaporated with (often) lower-end earners being classified as "non-essential". These people don't need a day in a museum at taxpayer expense; they need jobs and lack of waste.

Further onto comparing apples to apples is the egregious disregard city officials and (some) police exhibited when the Columbus Statue was illegally and wrongfully torn down a few years back. That statue was designed, paid for and installed by Italian Americans in and around Little Italy in Baltimore. No effort was made by the city to move the statue prior to the vandalism; no person(s) have been arrested for vandalism (though the crime was videotaped); and the same groups who paid to install it & commemorate it with presidential & city mayoral aplomb are having to do all the remediations themselves.

Shouldn't the state and city be forced to make good on that vandalism prior to spending 2 or 3 million taxpayer dollars for a museum? Or is Annapolis just taking the "theory" part out of "Replacement Theory".

Also the bill removes this part on **page 4**

**"(iv) the viability of matching funds for a project".**

This in itself is an indictment on the need and desire for the things bought with this \$5million fund (because the downtown museum is often empty, more so given its location); if no one from the community wants to contribute to African American Heritage Preservation Program maybe they see this project as simply gift.

I urge an unfavorable; these are not carefully balanced priorities in spending and culture.

humbly

~vince