



Office of the President

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

Senate Bill 152
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
February 9, 2022

Favorable with Amendments

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on Senate Bill 152. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Prohibiting an institution of higher education from refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript because the student owes a debt to the institution of higher education; and prohibiting an institution of higher education from charging a higher fee to obtain a transcript if the student owes a debt, provide less favorable treatment of a transcript request when the student owes a debt, or use a transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.*

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, and our recent successes have enabled the University to win several national awards for college completion. With that said, we annually reinvest approximately \$23M of our resources in student scholarships and institutional-based aid – a higher percentage than any institution in Maryland. Morgan works quite assiduously to ensure that we assist as many students financially as our resources will allow.

Morgan State University supports SB152 in spirit. We offer two major caveats: we would suggest a cap on forgiveness of up to \$500; and we would offer full support of the Bill if the Legislature would further amend it to reimburse Universities for losses. Morgan currently has \$2.4M of student receivables on its financial statements. Without amendments, like the ones we suggest, the Bill would reduce the University's ability to collect these critically needed resources, resulting in money lost to the University. Additionally, this might have an impact on whether new students will not want to pay for college because they know this Bill protects them.

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.