

Good Evening

My name is Tierra Lanier. I am the owner of Cassonade, Inc. We are a non profit organization located in Waldorf, MD. We wanted to ensure that you have our full support to approve House Bill 1226 - the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund. We believe that this house bill will allow for small organizations, like myself, to continue to address the community that we're trying to serve in our State. For example, I believe Cassonade is one of a kind. We are addressing issues that some grants would not consider in scope. Our primary focus is to assist people with their student loan debt. While we are exploring different options to obtain the most efficient process, these funds could allow us to assist citizens of the community by giving them an opportunity to bring down their loan payments. We have also created a community law enforcement audit program that hopefully will be moving forward before the summer. These funds would assist us in obtaining the files for the community to review, as well as pay the people who have been working hard to ensure this program is executed efficiently. Finally, our last goal is to create a birthing center focused on black and minority women. This would allow us to create a strong foundation to address a primary concern for black and minority women within the State of Maryland. We are in the process of laying our foundation in tandem with the American Association of Birthing Centers.

Supporting a bill like this, I believe, would allow us to obtain the opportunity to move in a direction our citizens would be proud of.

Thank you for supporting HB 1226.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Have a good evening.

-TSL
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