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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 332: Maryland African American Museum Corporation - Board of Directors - Membership

February 21, 2023

Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

When the Maryland African American Museum Corporation was established, it was determined 37 seats were needed for the appropriate engagement of the community of stakeholders involved in the start-up of the organization. Over the years, however, it has become increasingly harder to fill the seats established. Furthermore, there has been a decreased need to engage at a governance level.

As such, Senate Bill 332 seeks to decrease the number of seats from 37 to 25. On average, there are 25 seats filled annually. Currently, there are 22 seats filled which is just 59% of the 37 seats. In spite of this, the 22 current members have provided the necessary governance through both full board oversight and committee participation.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote favorably on Senate Bill 332.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD