

Coppin State University
Testimony in Support of House Bill 471
Chair: Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
February 13, 2023

Dear Chairwoman, Atterbeary and members of the committee:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Coppin State University, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 471.

Coppin State University holds the distinct designation of being an anchor institution. As such, we have a responsibility and play a crucial role in lifting the community of West Baltimore. Since 1900 we have served as a catalyst creating upward and economic mobility for our students and the surrounding community.

Currently, I serve as chair of the West North Avenue Development Authority. The Authority was created for the purpose of developing a comprehensive revitalization plan for West Baltimore. One important element to our work is to attract businesses to West Baltimore. Extending the sunset of the current RISE Zone program, for at least a full five-year designation, would afford Coppin State University the opportunity to establish meaningful relationships with companies we seek to recruit to West Baltimore.

Furthermore, I believe Coppin State University's research in the sciences and technology, coupled with the benefits of the RISE Zone program is an advantage to future businesses locating within the RISE Zone due to the partnership opportunities with Coppin State and access to a pool of employees with the education and skills needed for their business to grow. Therefore, I am requesting your consideration and a favorable support to expand the current RISE Zone program to include additional institutions and extend the program for an additional five to 10 years.

Best regards,



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President