

Witness Testimony for SENATE BILL 0101
University of Baltimore – Schafer Center for Public Policy
Submitted by LaShella C. Miller of Baltimore, Maryland

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ATTENTION: Senator Corey McCray
Maryland General Assembly

Dr. Ann Cotten
University of Baltimore Schafer Center for Public Policy

RE: Testimony Submission for the Certified Public Manager Program
facilitated by the University of Baltimore

Greetings to Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Senator Corey McCray, Members of the Maryland General Assembly, Dr. Ann Cotten, and staff members at the University of Baltimore Schafer Center of Public Policy. I submit this written testimony as a favorable gesture in full support of Senate Bill 0101.

My name is LaShella Miller and I had the awesome privilege of participating in the previous Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program at the University of Baltimore from October 2022 through October 2023. As a former member of Cohort 12, I greatly benefitted from the accelerated strategic leadership training offered through the CPM Program. There is an undeniable “change of the guards” taking place at the helm of leadership in today’s workforce. Many government institutions from the Local and State sectors are experiencing the inevitable transition of legacy leaders preparing for retirement and/or bringing closure to their career endeavors. In addition, the legacy leaders are figurative conduits who hold insurmountable years of institutional knowledge and experience about systemic operations that are essential for continued growth within the government sectors. To ensure a seamless continuum of success there must be preparation for the next generation of leaders to forge ahead with the same success coupled with an innovative approach to meet the advances that are quickly shaping the governmental workforce. This means intermediaries such as the CPM program at the University of Baltimore are critical in the development and curation of new leadership.

During my participation in the CPM Cohort, I was introduced to a higher level of strategic cultivation that forced me to think, act, and understand vast business principles far above mediocre. There were several key leadership qualities I was able to adopt and immediately flourish in my current role with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. Furthermore, the CPM program provided me with practical tools that I now apply when approaching transformational elements such as organizational reform, mission modification, creating new methods that advance department operations, and ways to embed innovation in a gradual, yet effective manner. Upon completion of the CPM program, I am now able to assume any leadership role including positions that will preserve the institutional knowledge fostered by the legacy predecessors.

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By supporting Senate Bill 0101, I formally acknowledge my unwavering support for additional funding to be appropriated to the University of Baltimore Schafer Center for Public Policy. This bill will allow the University to continue its mission while expanding its selection and development of new leaders who can sustain the new advances being interwoven in the field of public service. I confirm this program is a valuable asset to the public service sector and continued investment from the Maryland State Government can help to further the much-needed mission of the program.