

To Senate RE: SB0616 and

To House RE: HB0688

From the Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Road, Lutherville, MD 21093

Date: 6 February 2024

Museums Assistance Program Funding

Written Testimony from Stephen G. Heaver, Director, Fire Museum of Maryland

State funding for the Museums Assistance Program is very important to sustaining the cultural heritage of the State of Maryland. Collecting cultural objects and maintaining these 'relics', not necessarily ancient things, is critical to reminding us about who we are and teaching us about our past so that we may build a stronger future, and not repeat our mistakes. Pride of Place is one of the popular phrases that comes to mind!

Museums need financial assistance from the Maryland State government as we, the Maryland history museums have yet to be able to raise adequate funds. Individual gifts are growing but we need government support to make stronger programs and to broaden the application of compelling stories to those who are unable to pay for their creation.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen G. Heaver