

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

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– University of Baltimore

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BILL: SB0101 -University of Baltimore - Schaefer Center for Public Policy – Funding

POSTION: Favorable

***NextGen Leaders for Public Service***

I am writing in support of SB0101 – University of Baltimore – Schaefer Center for Public Policy – Funding. This funding will support the continuation and expansion of the NextGen Leaders for Public Service program, as well as other training for public service leaders in Maryland.

The NextGen Leaders for Public Service program provides career preparation and paid internships for students interested in careers in public service in Maryland. The opportunity to work in Maryland government and /or nonprofit organizations while completing a degree is essential for many students as they are learning how to apply academic concepts and deepening their understanding of public service in Maryland. The internship experience is also beneficial to the Maryland “host site”. Students are contributing members of the host site team for a 15-week term, working on average more than 240 hours. Students also have the option to continue for a full-year internship if the host site requests.

My experience with Maryland Department of Transportation, Office of Government Affairs provided me the opportunity to increase my preparation in exploring my interest in public service careers. As part of my internship, I assisted elected officials connect their constituents to the resources of the department. Every student can benefit from meaningful; professional internships and every host site can benefit from the talent and hard work provided by Maryland interns.

As a young person who loves helping and serving his community, the Schaefer Center for Public Policy provides an outlet to serve my state. This paid internship opportunity allowed me to balance school and my job at my host site. This funding is critical to rebuild state government. This gives an opportunity for University of Baltimore students to get their foot in the door to a job in public service. This grows a connection to the importance of serving your community while providing students with a job. This also allows state agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations to get an opportunity to highlight the work that they do. I learned so much in my internship as I had the opportunity to travel to thirteen jurisdictions to hear about their transportation needs, and the challenges we face as a state. This funding is an investment in our young people, an investment that also meets the state’s goal of decreasing the number of vacancies across state agencies. We should take every opportunity we can as a state to invest in our young people.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and your proven commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students in Maryland.

