

SB 646 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Dr. Tenyo Pearl

Position: FAV

March 7, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland State Senate,

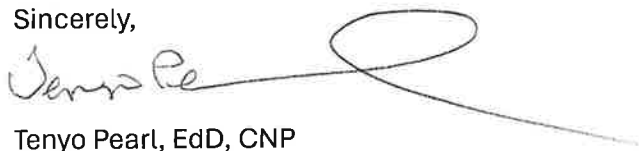
I am writing to ask your favorable vote on SB 646 as the founder of the Baltimore Hip Hop Historical Project and the originator of Hip Hop Day of Service, initiated on November 18, 2023, launched in Baltimore, Maryland. As a dedicated higher education professional, educator, mother, daughter, and community advocate, my life has been profoundly shaped by the transformative impact of hip-hop culture. In my youth, the resonant lyrics of Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five's "The Message" on WEBB Radio 1360 AM, owned by Dorothy Brunson, the first Black Female to own a radio station, sparked a sense of change. Over nearly 50 years, hip-hop has evolved into a cultural force and a call to action.

During the early 1980s, Marylander's Youth had the opportunity to join the airwaves of WEBB engaging in internships, volunteering and working alongside local DJs, empowered by the genre of hip-hop. As many members of Generation X recall those days, we can remember the days of which unity is fostered among Baltimore's youth which held a great significance in our city. Hip-Hop Day of Service, aligning with the third Saturday in November, aims to empower the next generation of leaders during youth homelessness awareness month. This day embodies hip-hop's true tenets, extending beyond music to celebrate community, expression, and activism. Past collaborations, such as BHHHP's 2023 initiative with the Franciscan Center, highlighted the positive impact of harnessing hip-hop for community service. Reflecting on my own journey, my initial volunteer work at the Franciscan Center during eighth grade shaped my passion and purpose. This path led to a 20+ year career in higher education, preparing the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

As you consider favorable supporting SB 646, it is important to recognize that hip-hop often receives a negative connotation. However, Hip-Hop Day of Service aims to celebrate its true tenets – a call to action, community service, empowerment, and a push for social justice. Establishing an official commemorative day for Marylanders dedicated to the legacy of hip-hop offers numerous benefits, introducing community service values to the youth, commemorating hip-hop's cultural significance, and serving as a call to action for future leaders.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to favorably support SB 646, acknowledging the potential for positive change that a designated Hip-Hop Day of Service can bring. Let us inspire the next generation to embrace the transformative power of hip-hop and be catalysts for meaningful change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tenyo Pearl", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tenyo Pearl, EdD, CNP

SB0646 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB0646 – General Provisions – Commemorative Days –
Hip Hop Day of Service
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
On March 8th 2024

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 0646 requires that the Governor annually proclaim November 18 as Hip Hop Day of Service. The proclamation should urge citizens and organizations to observe Hip Hop Day of Service with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Hip Hop since the 1970s has allowed generations of creatives and artists to express their art and bring marginalized voices together to speak out against pressing issues such as injustice, discrimination, and inequality. Hip Hop has been used as a powerful tool for promoting social change, empowerment, and unity among diverse individuals from various walks of life. Through lyricism and creative expression, Hip Hop artists have been able to use their platform to bring awareness to various societal issues, act as a cultural force, and promote education and community empowerment.

Hip Hop Day of Service will serve as a day where we celebrate the positive impact that Hip Hop culture has had on society, while also bringing together communities to promote unity, equality, and justice. We encourage Hip Hop enthusiasts, artists, and community members to collaborate on service projects, host educational events, or participate in local clean-up initiatives. Ultimately, the goal is to make a difference in the lives of the youth in our communities and those in most need.

As such, I urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB0622. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Senator Jill P. Carter

Testimony - marita.pdf

Uploaded by: Marita Asamoah

Position: FAV

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Marita Asamoah, I'm a freshman in an hbcu, and today I will be sharing a glimpse into my transformative journey through community service at the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. And today I will be sharing my experience about the 50th anniversary of Hiphop.

Entering the doors of the Franciscan Center, I was greeted by a vibrant energy from other individuals from all walks of life, each with their own story, their own struggles, and their own dreams. It was here, in the heart of Baltimore, that I discovered the true essence of service and compassion.

Every interaction, every shared meal, and every conversation became a testament to the power of human connection.

But beyond the surface level of our interactions lay a deeper truth - a truth that transcended socio-economic barriers and united us in our shared humanity. It was in the eyes of those we served that I found both humility and inspiration. Their resilience in the face of adversity, their unwavering hope amidst despair, illuminated the path towards a more compassionate and just society.

Through my experiences at the Franciscan Center, I learned that true service extends far beyond the confines of a single act. It is a commitment to empathy, to understanding, and to standing in solidarity with those who have been marginalized by society.

As I reflect on my time spent at the Franciscan Center, I am reminded of the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "For it is in giving that we receive." In giving of ourselves, we not only uplift those around us but also find fulfillment and purpose in our own lives.

The Franciscan Center has not only been a place of service but a beacon of hope in the heart of Baltimore. It has taught me that no act of kindness is too small, no gesture of

compassion too insignificant. For in the tapestry of humanity, it is our collective acts of love and service that weave the fabric of a more compassionate world.

As I continue on my journey, I carry with me the lessons learned and the connections forged at the Franciscan Center. May we all be inspired to serve, to uplift, and to be the change we wish to see in the world.

Thank you.

Trinia Holt Tesimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Trinia Holt

Position: FAV

Hello ladies and gentlemen, my name is Trinia Holt, I am a freshman attending a HBCU in Baltimore City. 50th year anniversary of hiphop service changed my life. It makes me look at hiphop as more than just dance, music, etc. Hip Hop is a call to action. Through hip hop we can express the need for change in our communities just as this event had. The experience to see how many people gave clothing items to give away to the homeless was impactful! Multiple people brung big bags full of clothing items (mainly hoodies and coats because it was cold). This was so joyful to see. Also not only to see the people of the community giving but to see the joy and hope in the unhoused was a different feeling that left me speechless. They were so grateful to see that they were able to receive new clothing items to keep them warm during the cold seasons. I could tell by their faces; we gave them a sense of hope and joy. This overall experience makes me want to become a change agent or an activist for the people who cannot speak up for themselves. Doing things for the community and advocating for a community who is unhoused to give them help, hope, love, aid etc. is something I stand by. The leaders of this generation will carry out the expectation Hip Hop has of advocacy for those who cannot advocate for themselves. We teach each other and also the new generation what hiphop really means.

SJ646.pdf

Uploaded by: Klaus Diefenbach

Position: UNF

Klaus Diefenbach
6742 Deer Spring La.
Middletown, MD 21769

I am asking you to vote against SJ646.

We have much more important issues to deal with than this nonsense. How about reducing spending so the we have lower taxes.

Klaus Diefenbach

SB0646 CRAZY HOP.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

SB0646 DUMB DUMB DUMB, can't you find Real Heros to Celebrate and Elevate?
As per Black Conservative Candace Owens, Stop Elevating the worst of society, please. If you do it for one, DO IT FOR ALL.

Are we going to have :
Patriotic Americana Music Day?
Christian Rock Day?
Classical Music Day?
A Day of Gospel Music?
Rock Bands Day?
Gypsy Music Day?
Klezmer Music Day?
Pansori Music Day?
K-Pop Music Day?
R&B Music Day?
Southern Rock Day?
Banjo Music Day?
Pop Music Day?
Rock & Roll Music Day?
World Music Day?
Jazz Music Day?
Country Rock Music Day?
+
+
+
+

With all that is going on at our border, crime off the charts across Maryland, inflation killing the middle class, Fentanyl killing our youth, can't afford to pay house home expenses and utilities, you want to do this gratuitous cabal bread & circuses observance, more distractions.

I would rather celebrate STRAIGHT A's DAY or a Hero who save a life day or anything other than this waste of taxpayer dollars. STOP it and SAY NO.

Suzanne Price
AACo, MD

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim November 18 as Hip Hop Day of Service. The proclamation must urge citizens and organizations to observe Hip Hop Day of Service with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.^{3 d}