



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Testimony in Support of House Bill 534
Chair: Delegate Marc Korman

February 13, 2024

Dear Chairman Korman, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Coppin State University, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 534.

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

In 2021, Delegate Tony Bridges introduced the Live Near Your School Bill HB 943. House Bill 943 seeks to ensure that Maryland invests in both its students and college communities around the state. The intent of the legislation is for current students and recent graduates to secure low-interest loans to purchase a home near their school as well as help provide students with grants for purchasing homes in sustainable communities. The philosophical premise of this bill aligns with the mission of Coppin State University.

House Bill 534 extends the sunset until 2030. Currently, the bill will sunset in September 2024. It also provides a mandatory appropriation of \$200,000 over the next 5 years. Therefore, I am requesting your consideration and favorable support to help invest in the communities that support local and state economic development.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony L. Jenkins".

Anthony L. Jenkins
President