

February 26, 2024

SB765

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle

Chair, Finance Committee

3E Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Senator Katherine Klausmeier

Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

123 James Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB765 — Economic Development - Business Diversity Incubator Program and Fund

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee:

Good afternoon my name is Maurice Alexander, founder of Osun talent agency and for nearly a decade I have been a resident of district 40. Also, I was born and raised in South East, Washington DC which is literally down the street from Prince George's County. I say that to say that I always considered Maryland my home.

I am in support of this bill not only because it would fund company creation and innovation throughout the State in under-served communities, but it would also create more jobs which means less crime. It would alleviate the school - to - prison pipeline that socio-economically disadvantaged communities are facing at this present day.

Through the funding of this bill, I plan on creating a construction incubator, where myself and my business partners who have decades of expertise in multiple fields of construction will train individuals in construction and how to run a business. Not only would this incubator give employment and business opportunities to individuals in socio-economically disadvantaged communities but also restore and rebuild those communities. Such as restoring abandoned buildings & homes, creating community centers, parks, and also grocery stores in areas that are considered food deserts.

This bill represents job opportunities, business opportunities, and community growth and development opportunities for countless citizens throughout the State of Maryland. It represents a future with more thriving businesses, communities, and a business/technology ecosystem that is inclusive of all Marylanders. I want to be a part of that future.

This bill is a bold move with potential for growth and opportunity for so many, and I ask that you submit a favorable report. I recommend that the Maryland Legislature pass this piece of legislation, because it is beneficial to every citizen of Maryland to have not only sustainable, but thriving business ecosystems. In the name of equity, in the name of progress, I submit to you that this is a ground-breaking piece of legislation and I am in favor of it passing.

Sincerely,

Maurice Alexander

Maurice Alexander

Founder, CEO of Osun talent agency

20 Market PI

Baltimore, MD 21202