

Testimony in Support of HB0609

Christian Jackson

Owner, Jackson Appraisal Group

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Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Christian Jackson, and I am the owner of Maryland based Jackson Appraisal Group, and a Certified Residential Appraiser of 18 years. I am here today to express my strong support for HB0609, which removes unnecessary obstacles for aspiring appraisers by exempting them from certain examination requirements when applying for a senatorial scholarship to complete the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) program.

As someone who has worked in this field for years, I know that one of the biggest challenges in becoming an appraiser is gaining access to the required education and more importantly, the required experience hours. The PAREA program has already provided an alternative to traditional experience requirements, but financial and procedural hurdles still prevent many qualified candidates from entering the field. HB0609 directly addresses this issue by removing the competitive exam requirement for those seeking scholarship funds for appraisal education, making it easier for them to secure financial assistance.

By eliminating this additional step, HB0609 ensures that scholarship opportunities are more accessible to those pursuing a career in real estate appraisal. This is an important step in streamlining the path to licensure and allowing more individuals to enter the profession at a time when the industry is faced with an aging workforce that lacks diversity and typically doesn't mirror certain communities that they serve.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to pass HB0609. This bill removes an unnecessary obstacle, simplifies the process of accessing educational funding, and helps ensure that more qualified individuals can pursue careers in real estate appraisal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christian Jackson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Jackson', written over the printed name.

Owner, Jackson Appraisal Group

Certified Residential Appraiser