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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 13
Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland
Submitted by Carrington & Associates, LLC**

Carrington & Associates, LLC is honored to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 13, sponsored by Senator Muse, which seeks to establish the Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland. This vital legislation not only acknowledges the contributions of African American sailors to the Union Navy during the Civil War but also underscores Maryland's commitment to preserving and amplifying the often-overlooked stories of courage and sacrifice in our shared history.

African American sailors from Maryland played an indispensable role in the Union's efforts to preserve the nation. By serving on warships, braving dangerous waters, and contributing to pivotal battles, these individuals helped redefine what it meant to fight for freedom and equality. Their service, however, remains underappreciated and underrepresented in our public narratives and commemorative landscapes.

The establishment of this Commission will enable Maryland to:

- Undertake a comprehensive study of the history and contributions of African American Civil War sailors, including their muster rolls, service locations, and distinguished honors.
- Identify meaningful ways to honor these sailors through the development of a memorial that educates and inspires future generations.

This bill ensures that these courageous individuals, whose sacrifices were instrumental in shaping the Union's victory and advancing the cause of equality, receive the recognition they deserve. A dedicated memorial will serve not only as a tribute to their legacy but also as an educational tool, deepening public understanding of Maryland's complex and integral role in the Civil War.

We applaud Senator Muse for his leadership in sponsoring this significant legislation and for his steadfast commitment to ensuring that African American contributions to history are properly recognized and preserved.

Carrington & Associates, LLC urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 13. Thank you for your time and consideration.