

From the Desk of  
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February 18, 2025

Honorable Alonzo Washington  
100 State Cir.,  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 755

Dear Senator Washington, my mother Mardee Mattison has custody of her grandson Keone' A. Mattison and her great-grandchildren Savanah Quinlan-Cure, Maurice D. Cure, and Asia M. Cure. She had custody of Keone since 2007 because his mother gave him to her with a notarized letter. The letter stated that she was unable to care for him because of her mental health issues. My brother Brian Keone's father, was in/out of prison during Keone' early childhood and died June 9, 2016.

My mother had custody of Savanah and her siblings since April 17, 2015, because of her mother's drug use and my nephew Skyler Cure surrender his custody rights, and the Department of Social Services placed them in my mother's custody.

Prior to the Pandemic in 2019 Keone' was an average student and during the pandemic he struggled with virtual learning and abandonment issues. When schools reopened, he had to attend summer school for promotion to High School. Once in high school, he became interested in sports and realized he had to maintain his grades. Since he started playing football and running track his grades improved and for the first time during his academic journey, he reached the honor roll at the end of his junior year and continued thus far. He is current taking an AP English class for the first. Keone' has received acceptance letters from six colleges/universities throughout the U.S. including University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Savanah has been an honor student since elementary school. Academics are no challenge for Savanah, she has taken AP classes in addition to being the Co-captain of her cheerleader squad in sophomore and junior years. In her senior year Savanah

enrolled in Anne Arundel Community College for Statistic and obtain a B grade while taking her senior year courses. She continues to stride academically and maintain a GPA above 3.5. Savannah has received acceptance letters from eight colleges/universities throughout the U.S. including Towson University.

Keone' and Savannah are excited about wanting to attend college and have a successful career. For them to attend college they need financial assistance because my mother is retired and cannot afford to send them to college. Going to college would be an opportunity for them to achieve their dreams and become productive members of society, as well as obtain what their parents did not.

Respectfully submitted,

*Orethea Y. Mattison*

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