| Dorien M. Rogers State President, NAACP Maryland Youth State Conference Email: presmscycnaacp@gmail.com Cell: 301-337-9186 | 7 March 2025 |
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Youth & College

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

My name is Dorien Rogers, State President of the NAACP Maryland Youth State Conference, and I am writing to express support for passage of House Bill 1368 within our great state of Maryland.

With over 15 youth/college units across our great state, we often forget that our intersectional youth are not just our future- they're our now. So now the question that comes before this esteemed committee is whether we as a state will answer the call to affirm the fundamental principles of expression within our courts.

Growing up in Maryland, I've always been the taught the importance of justice. Not just for the few, but for all peoples across our communities, state, and nation. Such a vision requires the fabrics of equity, transparency, due process, and a fundamental commitment to expressive innovation within a justice system reflective of one's peers. These ideals come together in further defining what freedom of expression looks like especially within the realm of the courts. Under this critical piece of legislation, the definition of creative expression is fundamental for all defendants including juveniles.

It is with high hopes that the success of this bills passage and implementation has the infrastructure/resources necessary to evaluate its effectiveness so that we can continue to move Maryland forward.

Best Wishes

In Union Strength

Dorien Rogers

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