



*Live the life you want.*

From: Ronza Othman, President  
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland  
15 Charles Plaza, #3002  
Baltimore, MD 21201 [president@nfbmd.org](mailto:president@nfbmd.org)

To: House Appropriations Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Appropriations Committee to give a favorable report to HB0109 - Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin for any program receiving federal financial assistance. This lessens the discrimination that can occur based on race, color, and national origin. Many of these minorities are discriminated against more heavily when it comes to employment, police brutality, housing, healthcare, criminal justice, and education. The earnings potential of racial minorities is on average lower, not because they have less potential, but because society inflicts prejudices and stereotypes on minorities which deserve equal and full participation in all aspects of life. Such characteristics are intersectional, often with disability, rendering those with disabilities at a higher proportionality of those likely to suffer from discrimination based on race, religion, and national origin. It is our belief that having Title VI coordinators and installing a full and fair complaints investigation and adjudication process will lessen discrimination and further the lives and rights of racial minorities in Maryland.

Evidence suggests that Title VI issues are severely underreported, especially as racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination are on the rise. Marylanders deserve safety as we pursue education and, ultimately, employment. Education at all levels forms the foundation of the American workforce, and having Title VI programs and spreading awareness of

students' rights will help us pursue the true goal of being in school—to receive a quality education.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB0109. For questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.

**National Federation of the Blind of Maryland**

**Ronza Othman, *President NFBMD*** | 15 Charles Plaza, #3002, Baltimore, MD 21201 | 443-426-4110 | [www.nfbmd.org](http://www.nfbmd.org)