

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0191**  
**Marquez White — Cambridge, Maryland**

My name is Marquez, I'm 21 years old and I live in Cambridge, Maryland. I wanted to share my support for Senate Bill 0191 and the idea of making *The Heart of Maryland* by Jayla Elise the official state song.

Growing up here on the Eastern Shore, Maryland has always meant a lot to me. It's the people, the small towns, the Bay, and the pride people have in where they're from. When I first heard *The Heart of Maryland*, it honestly felt like a song that represents what living here feels like today. It has that sense of pride and connection that a lot of people my age feel about our state.

I think it would be really meaningful for Maryland to have a state song that reflects the present and the next generation too, not just the past. This song feels like something people across the state could connect to.

As someone who grew up here, I believe *The Heart of Maryland* would be a great choice for our state song. Thank you for taking the time to consider my support for Senate Bill 0191.