



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David K. Wilson, President**

House Bill 807 (Delegate Mary Lehman, *et al.*)
Education - Teacher Preparation Programs - English Language Learner
Teacher Competency Requirements

February 25, 2026

Favorable

Chair Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair Jessica Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 807. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Requiring a teacher preparation program to include certain training in English language learner-related teacher competencies and include English language learner-related teacher competencies in other courses throughout the curriculum; and requiring a teacher preparation program to include a certain course in teaching English language learners beginning in the 2028-2029 academic year.*

Morgan State University respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 807, which requires teacher preparation programs to include training in English language learner (ELL)-related teacher competencies across the curriculum and to establish a dedicated course in teaching English language learners beginning in the 2028-2029 academic year.

As Maryland's Preeminent Public Urban Research University, Morgan State University is known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service, and deep community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global, interdependent society, and we view the preparation of teachers who can effectively serve multilingual learners as essential to this mission.

The growing number of children in the state for whom English is not their first language, and for whom English is not the language spoken in their homes, makes it imperative that teachers possess the competencies necessary to ensure these students have full and equitable access to the curriculum. In Prince George's County, for example, the fastest-growing population group is Hispanic, reflecting broader statewide demographic trends. This reality underscores the urgent need for educator preparation programs to integrate ELL-related instructional strategies, cultural responsiveness, and evidence-based practices throughout their coursework and clinical experiences.

For these reasons, Morgan State University strongly supports House Bill 807. We believe the requirements outlined in the legislation are timely, student-centered, and critical to ensuring that Maryland's future educators are well equipped to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse classrooms.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David K. Wilson
President
Morgan State University