



Maryland Education Coalition



INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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Date: January 19, 2021

BILL: HB0001

POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Funding

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) strongly supports House Bill 1- Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Funding. This legislation, once passed, would allow Maryland’s Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU’s) to strengthen their competitive edge, close significant funding and resource gaps, while positioning their vital role in accelerating academic and economic success for traditionally underserved students. This should result in a larger number of students, particularly first generation, gaining greater access to an affordable, high quality higher education experience more comparable to other Maryland public colleges and universities. It would also allow Maryland’s HBCU’s the ability to improve and expand their academic programs and provide additional financial and other supports so students can afford to graduate career-ready.

MEC is made up of twenty statewide organizations and several individuals with decades of experience and expertise. We have advocated for adequate, equitable funding and policies as well as systematic accountability for over 40-years. This includes advocating for students’ of color, those identified as lower income, special needs, limited English, homeless, foster care, Gifted & Talented or those within the Juvenile Service system regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. We believe a public education is a constitutional right allowing all students equitable access to a quality public education so each may graduate college or career-ready. We also believe it is a civil right.

In addition to requiring a significant increase in the financial resources for Maryland’s HBCU’s, HB 1 requires the expansion and improvement of existing and academic programs. MEC urges a greater investment in resources to attract and develop a larger number of public educators, administrators, and student service staff to support the needs of the diverse student population in Maryland’s Pre-K-12 public schools.

MEC also urges new and expanded programs within HBCU’s that would improve the Maryland economy especially in academic fields that support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). According to the United Negro College Fund, the nation’s 106 HBCUs make up just 3% of America’s colleges and universities, yet they produce almost 20% of all African American graduates and 25% of African American graduates in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics — the critical industries of the future.

These are fields often lacking equitable numbers of persons of color and women, especially at the upper levels of employment and leadership. MEC also includes a greater expansion in the various health fields to meet the growing needs within many communities not just in Maryland, but nationally.

MEC also notes that although HBCU’s undergraduate enrollment historically is dominated by African-Americans, their graduate programs are often much more diverse racially and economically. Regardless of the

Advocates for Children and Youth, American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland PTA, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Out of School Time Network, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists’ Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Barbara Dezmon, Kalam Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Shamoyia Gardiner, Sharon Rubinstein

make-up of Maryland’s public colleges and universities, all must be adequately and equitably funded.

At a time when Today, the nation’s 106 HBCUs make up just 3% of America’s colleges and universities, yet they produce almost 20% of all African American graduates and 25% of African American graduates in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics — the critical industries of the future.

With the COVID-19 crisis, we must resolve to mitigate the devastating disparities in education, including the alarming [decline of Black student enrollment](#) in undergraduate institutions and support HBCUS in closing the gaps in college access for disadvantaged students.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report by the Maryland House of Delegates.

Respectfully yours,
Rick Tyler, Chair – Maryland Education Coalition (MEC)

See Attachment

MEMBERS

Advocates for Children and Youth, American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland PTA, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Out of School Time Network, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists’ Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Barbara Dezmon, Kalam Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Shamoyia Gardiner, Sharon Rubinstein

ATTACHMENT

For those concern to the length and size of the funding approved by the courts and contained within HB 1-2021, please note that in addition to the evidence already heard, most HBCU's lack sufficient contributions or gifts from outside or non-government sources and many do not have significant endowments. This lack of funding from other sources also restricts HBCU's ability to support students, expand and improve their academic programs comparable to other public or private colleges and universities. This was noted recently.

On January 5, 2021, the Washington Post published the following article, ["Some D.C.-area colleges received record donations recently. Here are other top education gifts."](#)

A review of the article shows that the only substantial gift to 3 of 4 Maryland public HBCU's came from one donor, Ms. MacKenzie Scott for a total of \$85 million

- Bowie State-\$25 million
- Morgan State-\$40 million
- Maryland Eastern Shore-\$20 million.

These amounts are rare for most HBCU's, especially in Maryland. The three other Maryland public colleges or universities listed received a total of \$235.2 million - \$150 million more

- College Park-\$219 million
- Baltimore County-\$6 million
- Towson-\$10.2 million

The financial gap is even more significant for most Maryland private colleges and universities (\$1.87 billion)! Many of them have much smaller enrollments. Excluding to John Hopkins (\$1.8 billion) and the Naval Academy (\$47.7 million), the total for the other four private colleges or universities is \$70.7 million. The total for all six private colleges and universities is \$1.87 billion thanks to Michael Bloomberg. It is also important to note that may of the gifts to the non-HBCU's occur annually from various donors and different amounts, but it is quite rare for a HBCU to receive a significant gift from outside donors.

These momentous outside funding concerns have historically created significant funding gaps for HBCU's resulting in other forms of inadequacy and inequity. This includes that new, expansion and maintenance of their school academic, sports and arts facilities. Inequities can also include the quality and quantity of student services including nutrition, physical and mental health as well as the quality and availability of housing.

In addition, MEC historically opposes the allocation of public dollars (taxpayer funds) for non-public education institutions, except to support the needs of students with disabilities. The State of Maryland makes significant contributions to private colleges and universities including additional funding for student scholarships and grants that could and in our view should be reallocated for public colleges and universities and those students who attend them and need financial assistance.

The additional information above was provided by Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair-Maryland Education Coalition, and a HBCU Graduate – Virginia State University, Studied Public Education, Music Performance & Child Development