



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3557 • 301-858-3557 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3557 • Fax 410-841-3498 • 301-858-3498 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair

Delegate Darryl Barnes, District 25

1st Vice Chair

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28

2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10

Treasurer

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

Secretary

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

Financial Secretary

Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 37A

Chaplain

Senator Joanne C. Benson, District 24

Parliamentarian

Senator Charles E. Sydnor III, Esq., District 44

Historian

Delegate Talmadge Branch, District 45

Executive Director

Stephanie Hall

MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47
Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41
Senator Melony Griffith, District 25
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40
Senator Delores G. Kelley, District 10
Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45
Senator Obie Patterson, District 26
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20
Senator Mary L. Washington, Ph.D., District 43
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39
Delegate Curt Anderson, District 43
Delegate Vanessa E. Afterbeary, District 13
Delegate Erik L. Barron, District 24
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32
Delegate Regina T. Bayce, District 43
Delegate Tony Bridgas, District 41
Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr., District 18
Delegate Nick Charles, District 25
Delegate Frank M. Conway, Jr., District 40
Delegate Debra Davis, District 28
Delegate Dereck E. Davis, District 25
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A
Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 47B
Delegate Andrea Harrison, District 24
Delegate Keith E. Haynes, District 44A
Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23B
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A
Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8
Delegate Michael A. Jackson, District 27B
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10
Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46
Delegate Nick J. Mosby, District 40
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, District 21
Delegate Elizabeth "Susie" Proctor, District 27A
Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14
Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32
Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26
Delegate Jay Walker, District 26
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, District 22
Delegate Ron Watson Ph.D., District 23B
Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20
Delegate Nicole Williams, District 22
Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28

February 10, 2020

Delegate Anne Kaiser
Chair, Ways and Means

Delegate Alonzo Washington
Vice Chair, Ways and Means

Dear Chair Kaiser and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 1022. The purpose of this legislation is require additional transparency and reporting around alternative programs to ensure that students attending these schools receive an equitable education .

Alternative Schools serve students who have been suspended, expelled or pregnant and parenting. In Maryland, African American students receive substantially higher punishments higher punishments than white students do for the same behavior, resulting in disproportionate disciplinary actions. Although, African American students make up only 34% of the student population in MD, they constitute 59% of suspended and expelled students.

We feel this legislation is important because African American students face harsher discipline than white students for similar behavior infractions and are disproportionately represented in alternative programs. Greater transparency on how districts use alternative programs, the quality of these programs and how they serve or do not serve students will shine a light to make sure that all students receive equal access to a high quality education. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 1022.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Edith Patterson
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland