



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Our community nonprofit organization has seen the strong work and impact of MSAC throughout our city and the state. MSAC endeavors that have directly impacted our community include the recent designation of Pennsylvania Avenue as a state arts district, funding support towards our Jubilee Arts program that serves 2,000 people annually, and grants to individual artists that beautify and enrich our city with their work.

All of these items also bring well documented returns on investment that outweigh the actual public funding invested. This makes support of MSAC not only important for enriching our communities and state through art, but also an important economic engine that spurs critical investment and revenues for individuals, the city, and state.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Sincerely,

Todd Marcus

Todd Marcus
Executive Director