

Written Testimony in support of HB937

House Appropriations Committee, March 3, 2021

My name is JanetViana Clarke-Green, and I have been an educator for 25 years. I have lived and taught in numerous countries and have impacted the lives of thousands of learners over the years, and they in turn have impacted their communities.

Today I share the positive impact that the Maryland Humanities Council has had on students, myself, and my community and the reason why funding for bill HB937 ought to be supported.

I started attending programs supported by Maryland Humanities over 10 years ago, because I was driven by the high caliber and diversity of the programs offered. I became enthralled and developed a great passion for history through their Maryland History Day program, the One Maryland One Book program, and Letters About Literature (which is no longer offered). Through programs like these, my love and value for history and rich literature was further developed, and as the years progressed it crept into my classroom where I shared this passion with my students.

The rigorous training offered through these programs not only helped me to become a more competent educator, they afforded me the opportunity to help my learners become successful students and worthwhile citizens. My students were able to garner new skills and also to think creatively and critically, to reason, to ask questions, and gain new insights into the world.

My current 9th-grader Damilola shared with me had she not gotten involved in National History Day and Letters about Literature, she would not be able to assert herself as a leader who is not easily convinced without knowing the facts.

Ladies and gentlemen, funding the Maryland Humanities Council is very crucial. Today I plead with everyone here to support funding for bill HB937 as it helps students, teachers, the community, and our society to preserve the great accomplishments of the past, help us understand the world we live in, and give us tools to imagine the future.

Thank you, everyone.