

**TESTIMONY OF MAYA A. DOLBY
GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW AND 2016
SCHOLAR, FANNIE ANGELOS PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
IN SUPPORT OF SB 526**

Feb. 23, 2021

My name is Maya Dolby and I am a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law and a 2016 Scholar of the Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence. It is truly an honor to testify in support of Senate Bill 526.

When I was thirteen years old, my eldest brother was shot six times while away at college in Richmond, Virginia. He was a graduating senior at the time, a star athlete, and an expecting father. My family was traumatized, and we wanted justice for him. Unfortunately, that did not happen. To this day, no one was ever charged with the crime that was committed against my brother. Thankfully, he is still alive and well today. But that is the moment when I developed a passion for the law. Unfortunately, however, I had little knowledge of what becoming a lawyer would actually entail.

At Bowie State University, I discovered the Fannie Angelos Program and was offered the opportunity to receive a full scholarship to law school. Suddenly, my dreams became a reality. The faculty associated with this program recognized my passion towards the law, and helped me transform into a law student capable of becoming the type of attorney I wish my brother had. An attorney with integrity, a true commitment to justice, and impeccable legal skill. The program helps to achieve this by pouring into each student individually.

The Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence operates like a family. This talent search program scours the campuses of Maryland's four HBCUs in search of students that possess the ability to succeed in law school. Each year eight Scholars are selected. Although each student is unique in his/her own way, they each have one quality in common: Grit. The Program scholars are a relentless group. We are students who, despite any challenges in our personal lives, whether it is family issues, health issues or any challenges that may hinder our progress, possess the perseverance and passion required to achieve our long-term goals. We laugh together, we study together, and we uplift and support each other.

I can say without reservation that if it were not for the support of the Program, my law school experience would not have been the same. I graduated with honors and am happy to share that I passed the bar exam the first time taking it and in the midst of a global pandemic. I attribute my success to the support that accompanies selection as a Fannie Angelos scholar. I am confident that as I enter the legal profession, something that I've longed to do most of my life, I will do so knowing that this program has prepared me to be the attorney that my brother needed thirteen years ago. I will continue to "pay it forward" by helping, without hesitation, future classes of Scholars. For this reason, I urge the committee's favorable report of SB 526.