
BILL NO: Senate Bill 526
TITLE: Legal Education Success Collaborative - Established
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
HEARING DATE: February 25, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 526 creates a Legal Education Success Collaborative between Maryland's two law schools, University of Maryland Carey School of Law and University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) of Maryland. This collaborative would create a pipeline to increase diversity in the legal field through financial support, professional development, and mentoring opportunities.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland wholeheartedly believes the legal profession is best served when it is reflective of our communities' rich and diverse backgrounds. Representation matters, particularly within the judicial system. By working with HBCUs and the law schools to create systems to help eradicate traditional barriers to law school, including economic and social barriers, the collaborative will help the legal community as a whole.

For those reasons, the Women's Law Center of Maryland urges a favorable report on SB 526.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, membership organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change. The Women's Law Center operates two legal hotlines, the Protection Order Advocacy and Representation Projects in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Carroll County, the Collateral Legal Assistance for Survivors Project, and the Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project.