

OBIE PATTERSON
Legislative District 26
Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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3/10/2021

To: The Honorable Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass – Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

Subject: House Bill 0586 (SB0303) – Commemorative Days – Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

Dear Madam Chair Pendergrass,

I am submitting this letter seeking your support for House Bill 0586 (Senate Bill 0303).

House Bill 0586 (SB 0303) is a reintroduction to HB0716, heard by your committee in 2020. In 2020 the Senate EHEA committee and full Senate voted unanimously in favor of the Senate version of the bill. This year, House Bill 0586 is scheduled for a hearing in your committee on March 16th, 2021. I believe the Tuskegee group is meriting of special recognition for their significant contributions made to our country.

I appreciate your committee's previous great work in this area of special recognition by the passage of 2019 House Bill 0893 (CH0220) – Commemorative Months – Caribbean Heritage Month, by-then Delegate Shirley Pulliam, and of which I was a co-sponsor. HB0586 (SB0303) has been passed in at least five states, and the District of Columbia—Virginia being the most recent. Two other states, and Maryland, are taking the issue up this year.

Over this past summer, I had an opportunity to discuss SB0303 with Speaker Jones. It was clear to me that Madam Speaker was inspired by the significant accomplishments made by the men and women during the "Tuskegee Experience." As we closed out our conversation, I believe she was also willing to support this legislation.

In the spirit of brevity, I ask for your urgent support of HB0586 (SB0303), as the remaining number of founding members of this group continues to dwindle rapidly. Let's give them their flowers and special recognition NOW, as many of them gave their lives to protect ours.

Again, thank you for your consideration of HB0586 (SB0303), and I respectfully request a favorable vote.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Obie Patterson'.

Obie