



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David Wilson, President**

House Bill 1444 (*Delegate Wilkins et al*)

Income Tax Credit - Endowments of Maryland Historically Black Colleges
- Sunset Repeal

Committee: Budget and Taxation

March 30, 2022

Favorable

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 1444. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Repealing the termination of certain provisions of law that allow a credit against the State income tax for a certain amount of donations to certain permanent endowment funds at certain institutions of higher education.*

Morgan State University is the premier public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

For decades, through the Division of Institutional Advancement, the University has been committed to informing, engaging, partnering with, and securing financial support from a diverse spectrum of audiences through strategically-aligned communications, engagement initiatives, and philanthropic opportunities. We seek to build lifelong relationships that engage the time, loyalty, and intellectual and financial resources of individuals in support of Morgan's mission, goals and aspirations.

For example, on February 22, 2001, Morgan State University announced receipt of a \$20 million commitment from alumnus and philanthropist Calvin E. Tyler Jr. and his wife, Tina, increasing an endowed scholarship fund previously established in the Tylers' name. The monumental gift was the largest private donation from an alumnus in University history and is believed to be the largest contribution of its kind to any Historically Black College or University (HBCU) nationwide from an alum.

In 2016, the Tylers made a [commitment of \\$5 million](#) to the University— at the time the largest in Morgan’s history—bolstering the Calvin and Tina Tyler Endowed Scholarship Fund established in 2002 to provide full tuition scholarships for select need-based students residing in the Tylers’ hometown of Baltimore. In light of the financial hardships and challenges a number of students and their families are facing as a result of the current pandemic, the Tylers were compelled to expand their giving.

Morgan is so proud to call this son and daughter of the great City of Baltimore our own, and through their historic giving, the doors of higher education will most certainly be kept open for generations of aspiring leaders whose financial shortfalls may have kept them from realizing their academic dreams. (<https://www.morgan.edu/news/former-ups-driver-gives-morgan-state-university-20-million-ensuring-access-to-college-for-generations-of-students>)

The substantial philanthropic gifts and alumni giving have aided in student support. Over the past ten years, the University’s endowment fund has increased from \$15.1M to \$101.3M, and continues to grow. Alumni giving has also increased from \$73.9M to \$108.4M.

Morgan State University supports HB1444. It has been determined that the proposed legislation could have a fiscal impact to the University. If this bill is not passed the University's fund raising revenues could be affected by less contributors contributing to the University's endowment fund. The endowment tax credit is a great donor incentive that facilitates endowment growth thereby relieving stress on other funding sources that support students. We expect the number of donors seeking the tax credit will continue to grow if the bill is reauthorized.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the State in reaching a solution to support our students as we continue to grow the future and lead the world.