

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

February 6, 2022

Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB432-SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in support of HB432, which will increase the annual amount of tax credits available for film production in Maryland. My name is Beatriz Bufrahi and I am the chair of the Film Department at the Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA), a public pre-professional arts high school in Baltimore and one of the top ten best arts high school in the country.

For four years our students in the film program are trained by film industry professionals in script writing, cinematography, lighting, audio recording, production, graphic motions, and editing. An integral part of our film students' education at BSA is the connection to the film industry at large visiting production houses, film rental houses, film sets and studios. Our students have been invited to *The House of Cards* warehouse in Joppa in 2017, and to the *Charm City Kings* set in West Baltimore in 2019. Because our students were able to observe the various roles and duties of professionals working on a film set, these visits had life-changing and life-confirming impacts on our students. The students graduating from BSA and the film program are talented, motivated and ready to go to film school or enter the film industry. We need to support a thriving film industry in Maryland for many reasons including the opportunity for our students, to work, thrive, and create.

Many of our students do not want to leave their home state, families, and friends especially after college – but are forced to, because film jobs are not be found here in Maryland. So they move to New York, Georgia, and California. Subsequently we lose some of our most creative and productive young Maryland citizens. We should make sure that our talent and creative force stays in Maryland. The bill will certainly help build a more robust film industry. Please give our film students a future to work in one of the fastest growing economic sectors in American by supporting HB432. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Beatriz Bufrahi
Saul Zaentz Department Chair
Charles C. Baum Film and Visual Storytelling
Baltimore School for the Arts