



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

**Testimony of the NAACP Maryland State Conference
Willie Flowers, President
Montgomery County Council Bill-1-22
HHS Committee
February 1, 2022**

CHAIRMAN RICE AND COMMITTEE,

MY NAME IS WILLIE FLOWERS PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE AND I AM HERE TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF BILL 1-22 OR THE EATING & DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS - HEALTHY MEALS FOR CHILDREN.

THE NAACP STANDS WITH THE COALITION OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THIS LEGISLATION. PASSING THIS BILL IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO HELP MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF DISEASE AND SICKNESS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN AND OTHER MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES BECAUSE OF UNHEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS.

THE BILL GIVES DIRECTION TO RESTAURANTS AND FASTFOOD SPOTS TO BECOME A PART OF A MOVEMENT TO ASSURE FOOD OPTIONS AND NOT TRADITIONAL OPTIONS THAT ADVANCE OBESITY AND OTHER NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES IN CHILDREN.

IN MARCIA CHATELAIN'S BOOK CALLED FRANCHISE - THE GOLDEN ARCHES IN BLACK AMERICA - SHE GOES INTO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THE TRAIL OF PAIN THE BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES ENDURE BECAUSE OF THE NEGLECT OF NOT JUST PLANNING DESIGNS BUT ALSO THE NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES THAT FOLLOW FOOD OPTIONS THAT ARE NOT NUTRIENT RICH AND ADVANCE OPTIMAL HEALTH.

WE HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS ABOUT THE STEPS THAT CORPORATE ADVERTISING HAS HAD ON THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. WELL, BILL 1-22 GIVES RESTAURANTS A SIMPLE WAY OF SHOWCASING THEIR HEALTHY OPTIONS TO FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD. THIS WILL BRING VALUE TO THE CUSTOMER AND WILL MAINTAIN FAITH IN ANY EATERY AS A POSITIVE COMMUNITY STEWARD.

THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE STANDS IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY BRANCH AND THEIR COALITION IN THE PASSAGE OF BILL 1-22. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.