

# 2023

## LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

- Prioritize licensing to grow, process and dispense cannabis to members of impacted communities including ancillary cannabis businesses.
- Establish justice reforms that repair past harms and prevent further cannabis criminalization, including eliminating cannabis odor as a pretext for police stops, arrest and/or convictions and removing fines and fees for use of cannabis.
- All revenue from legal cannabis businesses targeted to communities most impacted by criminalization of cannabis.

### EDUCATION

- Recruit pre-K-12 teachers with focus on diversity of the workforce
- Bolster our Maryland Community Schools programs to ensure the success of our students and strong Blueprint oversight
- Double funding for Maryland Student Loan Tax Credit Program

### WEALTH & BLACK BUSINESSES

- Extend and protect Minority Business Enterprise programs
- Fund and create tech diversity incubator to increase participation and success of Black entrepreneurs
- Diminish environmental racism and climate change through the Climate Equity Labor Act

### HEALTH

- Expand mental health and create a health structure that serves Black residents via Blueprints for Health - Public Health and Behavioral Health
- Automatically enroll SNAP recipients in Medicaid
- Combat the disparity in cancer detection and treatment in Black communities by ensuring access to screening, testing, and treatment while eliminating cost barriers

### HOUSING

- Combat appraisal bias and ensure equal access to wealth through ownership by increasing the number of Black appraisers
- Expand housing and access to opportunity by creating a state-level housing voucher program
- Increase notification for rent increases to 120 days of notice statewide