



**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.®**  
**DELTA LAMBDA CHAPTER**

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**Testimony of the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**  
**Before the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Regarding Senate Bill 400**

**Thursday March 4, 2010**

Madam Chairwoman and committee members,

My name is Charles Sydnor III and I am here today representing the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Today, on its behalf, I request a favorable report from the committee on Senate Bill 400.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by Black men was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of people around the world. While Alpha's membership includes a number of distinguished men including former U.S Senator Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. Dubois and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Alpha also claims a number of distinguished Marylanders that have carried forth the fraternity's aims, including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Aris T. Allen and a former member of the Maryland Senate Harry A. Cole.

The fraternity's aims include has scholastic achievement, fellowship and the uplifting of humanity. In furtherance of those aims several members of the Baltimore chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Lambda chapter,<sup>1</sup> have come here this afternoon to offer testimony regarding this Senate Bill 400.

Senate Bill 400, aptly named the "No Representation Without Population Act", rights a practice in which Maryland has engaged. In the past, the State of Maryland has used some of the data collected by the U.S Census Bureau to meet its constitutional obligation to redistrict legislative districts. However, the Census counts incarcerated people where they are confined rather than where they resided prior to incarceration. While the U.S Census Bureau may have its own reasons for counting people where they are at the moment in history, there is no reason for the State of Maryland to use that same data to draw its legislative districts.

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<sup>1</sup> The Delta Lambda Chapter was chartered in Baltimore on May 23, 1919 and has given over 90 years of service to the metropolitan area.