

Ishaan Busireddy

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Howard County Council

George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Subject: Testimony for CR91-2023 - Introduced by The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ishaan Busireddy to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission.

Dear Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Council,

My name is Ishaan Busireddy. I am a rising Junior at River Hill High School.

I am testifving in support of my appointment to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission.

One of my main contributions to HCPSS is through my non-profit organization House4Sprouts.org in establishing organic vegetable gardens in various schools and donating the produce to an organization serving the needy in our county.

As a founding member of Howard County Youth Activist Coalition (HCYAC) we have actively advocated to amend Policy 9010 to allow discretionary absence to encourage students to take part in civic engagement and advocacy.

As a concerned citizen and advocate for equality and social justice. I firmly believe that it is crucial to promote the values and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in our community and schools to cultivate a more inclusive and compassionate society. By integrating his teachings into our community and educational system, we can inspire citizens and students to be agents of change and build a future that upholds the principles Dr. King fought for.

If confirmed, I will work towards implementing comprehensive educational programs that introduce students to the life and work of Dr. King. Through history lessons, literature classes, and various academic subjects, students can gain a deeper understanding of his invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement and his tireless fight for equality. By learning about Dr. King's legacy, students will be equipped with the knowledge and inspiration necessary to create a more just and equitable society.

I previously organized two official TEDx events at River Hill High School, both of which were commended by community leaders. I will work to also organize various events and panels especially among students to promote the tangible application of Dr. King's values.

Furthermore, to honor Dr. King, it is imperative that we cultivate a school culture that celebrates diversity and inclusion. By fostering a culture of respect and empathy, we can create an environment where every student feels safe, valued, and respected, regardless of their race, ethnicity, and religion.

To further support these efforts, I propose that schools encourage students to be civically engaged. By providing opportunities for volunteering, donations to charities, and participation in protests and other forms of activism, we empower students to make a difference in their communities and beyond. Dr. King was a fervent advocate for civic engagement, and by following in his footsteps, students will learn the power they possess to effect positive change in the world.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an exceptional leader and a beacon of hope in the struggle for social justice. By promoting his values within our community and schools, we can ensure that his legacy lives on and continues to inspire generations to come. I kindly request your support and confirmation of my appointment to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, it is an honor and great responsibility to serve our diverse county through this opportunity.

To conclude:

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds."

I hope to advance this goal in Howard County.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Busireddy