USMAI Statement on Recent Bomb Threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities

College Park, MD, Feb. 10, 2022 – The member libraries of the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium strongly condemn the recent bomb threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including three of our own members—Bowie State University, Coppin State University, and Morgan State University. Such crimes are intended to intimidate, instill fear, and inspire chaos and have no place in a just, moral, and democratic society. They also highlight the importance of working towards racial justice and healing.

As Jay Perman, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, stated, “If the intent of these threats was to restrict access to our historically Black institutions—to restrict access to higher education itself—it will fail. If it was meant to sow division, it will fail. If it was meant to terrorize students and communities of color, it will fail. Because we will work even harder to make sure our HBCUs, and everyone they serve, feel the full weight of our protection and support.”

Our libraries strive to promote reasoned and informed dialogue and research as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion for all through our collections and services. We extend to all HBCUs and especially our HBCU members our admiration, respect, and gratitude for all that they do and offer our support in these troubling times.

See Chancellor Perman’s full statement here.

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The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium is a consortium of 17 academic libraries in the State of Maryland. Its purpose is to support effective access to library resources, provide and promote a range of services, leverage expertise, and maximize benefits to the individual libraries of the member institutions. USMAI supports the shared mission of member campuses to contribute to the intellectual and cultural growth of students, faculty, and staff.