



Support with Amendments

House Appropriations Committee

House Bill 167: Higher Education - State Payments to Private Institutions - Unserved Student Populations

Andrea Chapdelaine, President

February 11, 2020

On behalf of Hood College, founded in 1893 to provide quality education in a vibrant, coeducational small-college environment in Frederick County, Maryland, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on *HB 167: Higher Education - State Payments to Private Institutions - Unserved Student Populations*. **Hood College supports the bill as proposed to be amended by the sponsor.** We have an annual enrollment of just over 2,000 students and we are grateful to the State of Maryland for its longstanding partnership with our institutions.

We laud the intent of the sponsor to facilitate the successful completion of a baccalaureate degree by students who complete an associate's degree. We thank the sponsor for working with us to craft a solution that is not institution-specific, but rather focuses on the student and will accomplish our shared goal of ensuring that all students have access and choice in postsecondary education.

By raising the award amount of the existing 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, the amendments will provide real money for these students to use in the pursuit of a baccalaureate degree.

In Fall 2017, Hood had 67 Maryland community college transfers, the majority of whom transferred from Frederick Community College (FCC). Hood offers a number of scholarships for transfer students, including the Founders' Scholarship (one-half of tuition), Trailblazer Scholarship (one-third of tuition), Recognition Award (one-quarter of tuition), and the Opportunity Award (\$5,000). In addition, Hood has a number of successful transfer partnerships. As an example, in 2018, the Presidents of FCC, Mount St. Mary's University (the Mount), and Hood College signed an MOU to create a seamless three-degree program in cybersecurity. The cybersecurity associate's degree at FCC will offer courses that transfer to the Mount toward a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. In turn, the cybersecurity curriculum at the Mount will transfer toward a master's degree in cybersecurity at Hood. The institutions developed the agreement to give students a contemporary, rigorous, and relevant associate's, bachelor's, and master's level education in the cybersecurity field that fully aligns with National Security Agency accreditation standards. The three parties are establishing a series of collaborative programs, events, and activities to recruit and retain students. Faculty exchange opportunities will allow professors to participate as guest lecturers or as affiliate/adjunct faculty at any of the three institutions, enhancing the student learning experience.

Thank you for your attention, and Hood respectfully urges a FWA report.