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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB1011 – Maryland College Access Act

HB1011 repeals the sunset provisions of the Maryland Higher Education Outreach & College Access Program, and renames it as the Maryland College Access Act.

This Committee established this program as a two-year pilot through legislation I proposed in 2015. It was then given an extension in 2018, and is now set to expire in 2021. This bill would now extend the program permanently.

Following its establishment, the Governor funded the program with a \$250,000 appropriation that has been distributed to five non-profit agencies across the State. These agencies focus on outreach efforts to support and encourage low-income high school students to attend & complete college.

As you will hear from some of the organizations with us today, these grants have been used to fund workshops on college & career readiness, financial aid, college admissions thousands of high school students across the State.

One of those non-profit organizations, First Generation College Bound, has aided 788 program participants in graduating with a college degree through this program:

PhD	2
Doctorate	14
Master's	137
Bachelor's	540
Associate's	95
Total	788

Getting admitted to a higher education institution is difficult for any student in Maryland, but especially those who have grown up under difficult circumstances.

This program is incredibly important, because it creates opportunities for young people who would not have them otherwise. To ensure that these non-profits can continue provide these important services, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB1011.