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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

### ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### Testimony in Support of HB98 – Maryland College Access Act

HB98 repeals the sunset provisions of the Maryland Higher Education Outreach & College Access Program, and renames it as the Maryland College Access Act.

The Appropriations 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 simply 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.

These grants have been used to fund workshops on college & career readiness, financial aid, college admissions and thousands of high school students across the State.

One of those non-profit organizations, First Generation College Bound, has aided 880 program participants in graduating with a college degree through this program:

Ph.D	3
Doctorate	13
Master's	140
Bachelor's	609
Associate's	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>

Getting admitted to a higher education institution is difficult for any student in Maryland, but especially those who have grown up under difficult circumstances. These nonprofits play a crucial role in assisting our young people in achieving their academic and career goals.

This program is incredibly important, because it creates opportunities for young people who would not have them otherwise. To ensure that these nonprofits can continue to provide these important services, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB98.