

**Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee**  
**SB 152: Institutions of Higher Education – Transcripts – Prohibition on  
Punitive 3 Measures**  
**Related to Student Debt**  
**Position: *Favorable***

My name is Jade A. Jackson and I previously attending Notre Dame University of Maryland (NDMU) to earn my degree in nursing. This was extremely important to me because it would help me obtain a degree in the field of medicine that I was interested in, as well as obtaining a higher-paying job, plus more opportunities. None of my immediate family members have a degree, so I wanted to be the first and make them proud.

I went into college as a freshman in the Fall right before the pandemic. In the spring semester, the pandemic forced everyone into quarantine and remote-online schooling. It was during this time that I discovered I owed a balance to NDMU and because most staff were working remotely, I could not physically go to the school to discuss the balance due in detail. Emails were lost and certain NDMU staff were no longer working—so it was a bunch a chaos.

In the fall of that year, I wanted to attend classes but couldn't unless I paid the entire balance due, which was over \$11,000 and I clearly did not have that. I thought about transferring to a Baltimore City Community College (BCCCC) but couldn't because I needed my transcript. After more than one year passed, I was finally able to pay off my balance, get my official transcript and apply to BCCC, which is where I am currently. Unfortunately, during the more than a year of sitting idle, I missed out on the opportunities to take college courses counting towards my degree and get certain jobs because they wanted to see my transcript. I could have been a little further in my studies hadn't been there been a delay in getting my transcripts.

No one should have to endure this type of delay or setback, which hinders their growth and advancement. SB 152 addresses this issue and prohibits this practice that has no place within higher education. For all of these reasons, I support SB 152 and urge a favorable report.

Thanks,



Jade A. Jackson

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