

Committees: Education, Energy and the Environment

Testimony on: SB248

Position: Favorable

30 January 2022

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB248 that prohibits an institution of higher education from refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript because the student owes a debt to the institution of higher education.

We live in a national community where wealth encourages wealth, and low-income families are consistently kept under. If our state-sponsored colleges hold this debt against them, and disable them from acquiring their hard-earned college transcripts, we live in a negative feedback cycle. Our tertiary education system already accrues so much debt among American families. Our collegiate program already has so many financial issues already, you can not hold students who are victims of this flawed institution accountable. Education should be readily available to all. Education is a human right.

This is what I believe. This is what millions of Americans, your constituents, believe. I understand we can't fix that. I understand that some of you don't want socialized education, however, our students should not be answerable to this system. These are well-respected Americans, our citizens, our neighbors, who just want to get a job. They want to work their way out of the system of poverty that our financial institutions keep them in. We cannot hinder their progress. We must work together to fight inequality in all aspects. You can be a part of that change, you can be the answer.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB248.

Thank you,



Gannon Sprinkle
University of Maryland — College Park,