



February 14, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of United Way of Central Maryland, we want to pledge our full support for **House Bill 0384** which will give students full access to their school transcripts regardless of an outstanding bill. We are aware that many students across the state are having difficulties accessing their transcripts because of unpaid debt owed to their college or university. Unpaid debt can be not only for tuition but also for room and board, miscellaneous fees, parking or library fines and other costs that students may be unaware that they owe. These outstanding debts have prohibited them from accessing their transcripts to be used for several reasons such as transferring schools, proof of education, and/or applying for scholarships.

United Way of Central Maryland is working to break down these educational barriers for individuals pursuing higher education degrees. Nationwide, 6.6 million students can't obtain their transcripts from public and private colleges and universities that block them from access for having unpaid balances as low as \$25 or less. Pushing legislation will give students a chance to reach their full educational potential and reduce the obstacles they will face as they continue their journey to earn their degree.

For these reasons and more United Way fully supports **HB 0384!**

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Franklyn Baker".

Franklyn Baker  
President and CEO