

**Senate Bill 893
Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

March 7, 2023

Favorable

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 893. St. Mary's College of Maryland supports efforts to enhance the pipeline of students into teacher accreditation programs. The College's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program typically enrolls 25 to 30 students per year and is highly regarded for producing well qualified, excellent teachers. In recent years, however, attracting students into the program has been challenging for various reasons, including difficulties in participating in the State's Teaching Fellows Scholarship program, the lack of funding for student teacher internships, and the increasing prevalence of school systems hiring teachers directly out of undergraduate programs, who are not yet credentialed, on a provisional basis.

The College supports the Bill's proposed change in criteria for awarding the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship, specifically the elimination of the GRE scoring requirement for a master's degree student. St. Mary's College does not require MAT program applicants to take the GRE because our faculty can effectively assess an applicant's potential to succeed based on their academic record. Eliminating the requirement for a prospective master's degree student to take the GRE not only lowers barriers for students to enter a master's program, but also expands the opportunity for students to receive a scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
President

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