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**SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT & BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEES**

**Testimony by**  
**Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**  
**March 7, 2023**

**SB893 - Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023**

**Letter of Information**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, supports the efforts to recruit and retain a diverse and highly qualified teacher workforce in the state of Maryland.

Our community colleges have designated transfer degree pathways that lead to initial Maryland teacher licensure and certification. The Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.) degree is an articulated transfer pathway into baccalaureate degree programs in teacher education across all Maryland public and private four-year institutions with approved teacher education programs. The A.A.T. degree is intended to fulfill the first two years of a four-year degree program. Per Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) 13B.02.03.24, the A.A.T. degree satisfies all lower division teacher education program outcomes without further review from the four-year institution and may transfer up to 70 credits forward into any four-year education program into which the student has been admitted. (Maryland State Department of Education, May 2021). There are transfer degree pathways into four-year programs available at every community college, and through which our students may also enter the teacher workforce.

While we applaud the creation of the Teaching Fellows program, Grow Our Educator Scholarship, and Educator Internship Stipend program, we are concerned that the legislation as written would be exclusive of students attending community colleges, which serve a local and diverse student population and include several minority serving institutions – the exact kind of talent pool this legislation is intending to recruit and support. Some students come to us more than 2 years removed from high school, or may have been in a circumstance where their high school GPA is not reflective of their growth at community college, which are currently not eligible institutions as written and whose transcripts cannot be considered in student eligibility.

We hope you will consider this information and revisit the eligibility requirements for students.