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Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Vice Chair, Education
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House Chair
Joint Audit and Evaluation
Committee

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 341 Testimony
Higher Education – Cost-of-Living-Adjustment
Non-State Supported Employees
February 13, 2024

House Appropriations Committee

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, Colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to present on my bill HB 341. This legislation proposes to allocate COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) funding for all non-state-supported employees within the University System of Maryland.

The State negotiates and announces salary and wage increases for all State employees however, **not** all State employees' increases are paid for from State funds.

Many of these State employees work in university dining halls, housing units and other functions. Their salaries are paid from the proceeds of fees charged to students at our institutions of higher learning.

These employees are rightly included in being eligible for State-announced COLA increases and in fact may be the employees who will benefit the most from increasing their pay to keep up with inflation.

But the State does not pay for these increases. Rather these increases are absorbed by our universities or passed along in the form of higher costs to our Maryland students and their families. You will see each University's response outlined in the fiscal note in regard to percentage of employees that are not covered by our traditional COLA's and the impact on each institution.

The state has an interest in ensuring that these employees realize the same wage increases as other state employees without passing that cost along to other Marylanders in the form of additional fees.

Therefore, I ask for support from this body to ensure the State funds the COLA increases it announces for ALL state employees. **Thank you for your consideration and I ask for a favorable report on HB 341.**