

Maryland Higher Education Commission Testimony
House Bill 607
Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise
Scholarship - Requirements

Appropriations Committee

House Office Building Building, Room 120, Annapolis, MD

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair

February 20, 2024

12:00 Noon

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and committee members. I am Acting Secretary Dr. Sanjay Rai at the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Chair Barnes, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 607, “Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship”. I also want to thank Delegate Kevin Harris, the sponsor of this legislation for his strong support of community colleges and the students they serve.

House Bill 607 seeks to expand financial assistance to those students who are enrolled in noncredit vocational certificate programs or any courses leading to a certification of licensure under the Promise Scholarship. This legislation will strengthen apprenticeship programs at Maryland’s community colleges by allowing community colleges to work closely with students through applications and admission to fulfill their career goals.

We have worked closely with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges to ensure this legislative language is right in an effort to make a difference in the lives of community college students. In closing, I am asking for a favorable report in support of House Bill 607. Thank you.