

**HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
February 20, 2024**

TESTIMONY

Submitted by:

**Daisy Lopez-Lopez, Vice President of the Student Governance Association,
Prince George's Community College**

House Bill 0607- Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship –
Requirements

Position: Favorable

My name is Daisy Lopez-Lopez, and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 0607. I am a Promise Scholarship recipient at Prince George's Community College. I have experienced firsthand the challenges and barriers that individuals face when pursuing higher education. This bill, if passed, would alleviate some of these challenges and significantly improve access to education and training for individuals like myself.

One of the most commendable aspects of House Bill 0607 is its recognition of the diverse pathways to career advancement and economic success. Not all students follow the traditional route of pursuing credit-based degree programs. Many people choose to pursue noncredit vocational certificate programs, specialized courses, or apprenticeships as a means to acquire the skills and qualifications necessary to thrive in today's workforce. However, the current requirements for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship often pose unnecessary obstacles for students in these programs, deterring them from accessing financial assistance that could make a world of difference in their educational journey.

By exempting applicants enrolled in noncredit vocational certificate programs, certification courses, or apprenticeships from certain application requirements, House Bill 0607 would streamline the scholarship application process and make it more accessible to those who need it most. This means fewer hurdles and more opportunities for individuals to focus on their education and training.

House Bill 0607 represents a crucial step towards fostering equity and inclusivity in Maryland's education system. By removing barriers to financial assistance for continuing education students, this bill has the potential to transform lives and strengthen our workforce. I urge you to support this important piece of legislation for the betterment of our community and the future prosperity of our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Daisy Lopez-Lopez
Student Governance Association, Vice President
Prince George's Community College