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Charles and Prince George's Counties

Appropriations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB607
Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship – Requirements
Delegate Kevin M. Harris
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. I am Delegate Kevin M. Harris representing legislative district 27A which covers Charles and Prince George's Counties. Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 607 before you today.

This bill expands eligibility for students using the Maryland Community College Promise (MCCP) Scholarship to pay for non-credit, certificate, or registered apprenticeship programs. Thus, creating greater access and preparation for individuals to enter the workforce and advance their career by eliminating barriers to financial aid.

HB 607 is crucial in ensuring that students qualifying for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship are not disadvantaged due to their inability to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Since students participating in these programs aren't eligible for federal aid, there should not be a hindrance preventing them from receiving the necessary funding to meet educational requirements for specific professional licensure and/or certification required for employment in an occupation.

There is a positive impact on Maryland's economy when we invest in students who enroll in non-credit, certificate, or registered apprenticeship programs. Community colleges offer education in many in-demand industries like IT, HVAC, LPN, Biomedical Equipment Technology, and many others. With more students having access to these programs, we can expect these industries to grow and further support Maryland's economic development.

HB 607 will create greater opportunities for Maryland workers to be empowered and educated, thereby strengthening the middle class, and further growing our state's economy. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB 607.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Harris

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Legislative District 27A – MD