

Favorable Testimony, MD SB 749.pdf

Uploaded by: Madison Marino

Position: FAV

My name is Madison Marino, and I am a visiting fellow in education policy at the Maryland Family Institute. I am here today to request your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 749. This bill allows nonpublic school students enrolled in dual credit programs to apply for the Part-Time and Early College Access Grant programs.

In Maryland, nonpublic school students are currently gated from accessing tuition assistance for dual enrollment programs offered by the state.¹ “48 states and the District of Columbia have state-level dual enrollment policies,” which simultaneously allow students to earn high school and college credit.² Of those states, 35 provide some assistance via state-funded appropriations to students enrolled in dual credit or dual enrollment programs.³ In several states, all students, not just public school students, can access grant programs that help them pay for such opportunities.⁴

Acquiring a postsecondary degree or credential enhances individuals’ earning capacity and economic security⁵, expanding their career prospects and opportunities. This stability remains resilient in the face of economic downturns and fluctuations in the labor market. Enrollment in dual credit programs improves students’ likelihood of starting and finishing said degree. A 2017 study of more than 200,000 high school students showed that 88 percent of dual/concurrent enrollment students “went on to college after high school and completed degrees at higher rates and in less time than their non-participating careers.”⁶ In addition, by participating in dual enrollment programs, students can reduce the total cost of their college degree by accumulating credits early.

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS) reported that for the 2020-2021 academic year, there were 19,872 dually enrolled high school students in Maryland, which represents about 7.28 percent of total high school enrollment in Maryland.⁷ Since the academic year 2010-2011, there has been a continuous growth in dual enrollment participation in Maryland.⁸ Nationally, 34 percent of US students are taking college courses in high school; this represents a triple increase from the 10 percent participation rate reported in 2010.⁹ As demand for these dual enrollment programs continues,

¹ “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future: College and Career Readiness,” <https://marylandpublicschools.org/Blueprint/Documents/CCRReportSummer2022.pdf> (accessed on March 1, 2024)

² “50-State comparison: Dual/Concurrent Enrollment Policies,” Education Commission of the States, May 2022, <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-dual-concurrent-enrollment-policies/> (accessed on March 1, 2024)

³ “50-state comparison: Who contributes to paying for student costs of tuition for this program?” June 2022, <https://reports.ecs.org/comparisons/dual-concurrent-enrollment-2022-16> (accessed on March 1, 2024)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022,” U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm> (accessed on March 1, 2024)

⁶ “NACEP Fast Facts,” National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, <https://www.nacep.org/resource-center/nacep-fast-facts/> (accessed on March 1, 2024)

⁷ “Dual Enrollment in Maryland: Annual Report to the General Assembly and Governor Larry Hogan,” Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, 2022, https://mldscenter.maryland.gov/egov/publications/CenterReports/DualEnrollmentReports/MLDSDualEnrollmentReport_2022_suppressed.pdf (accessed on March 1, 2024)

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “Dual Enrollment: Participation and Characteristics,” NCES, 2019, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019176.pdf> (accessed on March 1, 2024); “NACEP Fast Facts,” Ibid.

Maryland should provide all students access to resources funded by state taxpayers, such as the Part-Time Grant and Early College Access Grant programs.

Access to grant programs such as the Part-Time Grant and Early College Access Grant programs would provide a much-needed benefit for nonpublic school students and their families, as they are already paying taxes that are funding these programs; furthermore, this would enable Maryland to meet the long-term needs of an educated workforce.

SB 749 Sen Corderman Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Chair Brian Feldman
Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 749 – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students - Alterations

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the EEE Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 749 this afternoon. This bill expands the definition of “dually enrolled student” to include a “nonpublic secondary school student” or a “home school” student so that these students are eligible to apply for the Part-time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

The dual enrollment program improves college and career outcomes for our students, and also reduces potential financial barriers to college access. Private and home school students deserve equitable access to college just like their public-school peers, and SB 749 ensures this opportunity for more Maryland high school students. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 749.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties

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Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: UNF

UNFAVORABLE
Senate Bill 749
Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
March 6, 2024

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association opposes Senate Bill 749, which would alter the definition of "dually enrolled student" such that students enrolled in nonpublic schools or home schools are eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The Part-Time Grant Program and Early College Access Grant represent laudable efforts to ensure that Maryland students have access to dual enrollment programs, regardless of their family's income. MSEA believes that public funds should support the education and flourishing of students in public schools, not subsidize private entities that do not abide by the standards and regulations set by county boards of education. The proposal in this bill would siphon college access funds from public school students in need, thus undermining this body's commitment to investing in a high-quality, world-class public education system for Maryland students.

We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on Senate Bill 749.