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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0607- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship – Requirements

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0607, Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship – Requirements

Not every student is interested or motivated to attend college but would learn a trade in a workforce support or vocational occupation. Courses taken to earn certification or licensure for the pursuit of that occupation can and should be supported; workers in these jobs are just as necessary in our economy as those earning two-year degrees in our community colleges system. Likewise, registered apprenticeship programs create a needed universe of trained and competent workers performing tasks and jobs that support all of us.

This bill is an acknowledgement that scholarship monies should apply equally to those in both standard community college programs and to those courses taken in a vocational setting. It values students who want to make apprenticeships and job certification or licensure their educational goal. It assists persons who have not been able to pursue these programs because of financial hardships. Maryland should remove this barrier and expand what the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship makes possible for all students.

This bill is an ethical and moral commitment to support every student in their journey to become the best possible resident, and possible future citizen, within our state and our country.

. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0607.