

House Appropriations Committee

February 4, 2025

**HB 298 – Maryland Higher Education Commission - Demographic Data Collection -
Parental Status****Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 298**, which requires collection and reporting of data on the parental status of students. This legislation ensures that colleges are gathering information on whether students are parents or guardians, the age of their children, and their caregiving responsibilities. By incorporating these questions into existing demographic data collection processes, this bill provides critical insights that will allow community colleges to better understand and support student parents.

Maryland's community colleges serve a diverse population, including many students balancing coursework with caregiving responsibilities. However, there is currently little statewide data on how many students are parents or what specific challenges they face. Collecting this information in a standardized way will help institutions develop policies and resources that better support student parents, including access to childcare, flexible scheduling, and advising services.

MACC looks forward to working with the bill sponsor and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to ensure the data collection process is appropriately designed for community colleges.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 298**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.