House Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2025

SB 789 - Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, strongly supports **SB 789**, which strengthens the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program and increases resources to address food insecurity among college students. Food insecurity is a pressing issue for many community college students, who often juggle coursework, employment, and family responsibilities while struggling to afford basic necessities. No student should have to choose between paying for tuition and affording their next meal, yet too many students face that brutal reality. Hunger is not just a health issue—it is an academic issue that impacts student focus, retention, and overall success. Expanding funding for hunger-free campuses helps eliminate barriers that prevent students from reaching their full potential.

SB 789 increases the state's investment in the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, ensuring that more institutions have the resources to provide food assistance programs, on-campus food pantries, and emergency support services. By providing reliable funding for these efforts, this bill allows community colleges to sustain and expand hunger-relief initiatives, ensuring that no student falls behind due to food insecurity.

Addressing student hunger is not only a moral obligation but also a critical workforce development strategy. Ensuring students have the support they need to stay enrolled and complete their education leads to a more skilled workforce and a stronger state economy. Community colleges are committed to providing affordable, high-quality education, and SB 789 helps to ensure that food insecurity does not become a roadblock to student success. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 789**.

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