

The Honorable Ben Barnes

Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Maryland House of Delegates

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barnes,

I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 845. As Mayor of Delmar, Maryland, I have seen firsthand the unique circumstances faced by our community. Delmar is a small, bi-state town straddling the Maryland-Delaware border, where many of our residents live in Maryland but attend Delmar High School, which is physically located in Delaware. This has created an unintended barrier for our Maryland-resident graduates seeking to benefit from the Community College Promise Scholarship when pursuing higher education or vocational training at Maryland community colleges.

HB 845 would simply and fairly extend eligibility for this valuable scholarship to qualified graduates of Delmar High School who are residents of Delmar, Maryland. By doing so, the bill would remove a geographic inequity and open doors for more of our young people to access affordable postsecondary education, including vocational certificates, associate degrees, and registered apprenticeships opportunities that directly support workforce development, economic mobility, and the long-term vitality of our region.

This modest change would have a meaningful, positive impact on families in Delmar and the surrounding Wicomico County area without creating new programs or significant additional costs to the state. It aligns with Maryland's commitment to expanding educational access and ensuring that no student is disadvantaged due to the quirks of a state border running through their hometown.

I respectfully urge the Appropriations Committee to favorably report HB 845 and for the full House to pass this important legislation. I stand ready to provide any additional information or support as needed during the legislative process.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the needs of our border community.

We truly are “The Little Town Too Big For One State”

Mayor

Ben Jordan

Town of Delmar