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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chairman
Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Committee:

As the president of Wor-Wic Community College, I am committed to ensuring residents of Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties have access to high-quality education. For this reason, I strongly support House Bill 0845-Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility for Delmar High School graduates, which would make graduates of Delmar High School who reside in Delmar, Maryland, eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. This change will address an existing access gap for Wicomico County residents.

When the Wicomico County Economic Impact Scholarship (WEIS) was created in 2016, it recognized the unique bi-state nature of the Delmar School District by including Delmar High School graduates. However, when the statewide Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship was introduced in 2019, this nuance was overlooked, leaving residents of Delmar, Maryland, excluded. House Bill 0845 accounts for this oversight and ensures these students have the same opportunity to benefit from the transformative power of education.

Beyond providing access, the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is linked to stronger student success outcomes. Among Fall 2024 recipients, students enrolled in more credits per term and were more likely to maintain positive academic standing (satisfactory or dean’s list) compared to peers who did not receive the scholarship. These outcomes are critical to note, as enrolling in more credits and staying in good academic standing strengthen momentum toward degree completion, reducing time to graduation and increasing the likelihood that students persist through to earning a degree.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding educational access for Wicomico County residents by issuing a favorable report on House Bill 0845.

Sincerely,

Deborah Casey, Ph.D.
President

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