



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

March 2, 2026

The Honorable
Mary Beth Carozza
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Support for Senate Bill 709: Education – Purple Star Schools Program and Purple Star Colleges Program

Dear Senators Carozza:

On behalf of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, I write to express support for Senate Bill 709 Education – Purple Star Schools Program and Purple Star Colleges Program, recognizing the bill's alignment with the universities mission to advance access, equity, and high-quality educational opportunities for Maryland residents. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore remains committed to fostering academic excellence, strengthening the state's workforce, and supporting legislative initiatives that enhance student success and military community well-being.

Senate Bill 709 provides a framework that supports Maryland's long-term educational and economic goals. The proposed measures promote greater coordination, improved resource stewardship, and expanded opportunities for military connected students and the families we serve. As higher education continues to evolve in response to changing workforce demands and student needs, policies that reinforce stability, transparency, and innovation are vital to the state's continued growth.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore appreciates the General Assembly's ongoing commitment to higher education and values the constructive partnership that enables our institutions to serve Marylanders effectively. We look forward to continued collaboration as the bill advances through the legislative process. Thank you for your dedication to Maryland's students, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Heidi M. Anderson, Ph.D.
President
University of Maryland Eastern Shore