



**HB534 Nonpublic Schools-Transcripts-Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to
Student Debt**

Position: Favorable

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB534, which prohibits a school that participates in State-funded education programs from refusing to issue a transcript to a current or former student due to student debt.

HB534 builds on past work in the General Assembly to address student loans and student debt for struggling students. In the past, some students who were applying for employment or graduate studies found that their school would not release their transcripts until certain student debts or fees were paid. In many ways, this created a vicious cycle of poverty, as students were unable to gain a sustainably-waged job which would allow them to pay their school debt, because the school would not release their transcript.

HB534 will allow students to gain skilled jobs or apply for graduate studies without fear that their transcript will be withheld for a debt.

For all these reasons, we support HB534 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org