

Testimony to the Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee
HB 419: Higher Education - Report on Collection Practices for Unpaid Fees and Services
Position: Favorable

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ebony Reddix, I am a devoted wife, mother of four children 18, 16, 11 and 5. I work full time as an administrative assistant and I would love to be a full time student and complete the three classes I need in order satisfy the necessary requirements to fulfil my bachelor's degree and add college graduate to my next introduction.

I am writing today in support of bill HB 419 which will require Maryland institutions of higher education to report on the withholding of transcripts and other information related to coursework due to a student's unpaid fees and services.

When I realized this was a rule I was trying to have my transcripts transferred another college a few years ago but was denied because I had \$50 application fee that was due on the account.

The reason this bill is so personal for me is because I am currently trying to find a viable payment plan for the university that I attended in order to complete my degree. The last semester I was enrolled in school I had to withdraw from classes due to a hectic family life. As a result I owe the university a balance and I am not able to enroll in school or have my transcript released. If I am able to enroll in classes while I have a payment plan in place that would put me in a better position to be able to pay my balance and complete my degree at the same time. Unfortunately, I cannot afford to do both so I am stuck.

For all these reasons, I urge you to move favorably on HB 419.

Best,
Ebony N. Reddix