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Testimony

*Support House Bill 1082—Denial of Transfer Credit—Notice and Report—Transfer with Success Act*

House of Delegates

Appropriations Committee

March 5, 2020

Position: Support

Making transfer easy and seamless must be an imperative for Maryland. Opening the doors wider at the state's four-year colleges and universities will:

- *advance equity in degree attainment;*
- *ensure timely and affordable degree completion for Marylanders;*
- *achieve Maryland's college completion goals; and*
- *create the homegrown talent necessary to fuel Maryland's economy.*

Community college students can succeed at Maryland's four-year colleges and universities. In fact, the data shows that transfer students do as well, if not better in the classroom as those admitted as freshman at four-year schools.

Unfortunately, despite their ability to succeed we hear too many stories of students who face barriers to transfer including credit denial.

National data shows that too many students are forced to take classes over, slowing their time to degree and wasting limited resources. Our students can ill afford these unnecessary costs and our economy needs ready workers now to fill jobs in cyber security, biotech, cloud computing, teaching, and nursing.

To help our students and do our part to close skill gaps, community colleges including Montgomery College, spend limited resources—both tuition revenue and public funds—to negotiate an array of articulation agreements with individual institutions. Unfortunately, this vast web of complex agreements with “fine print” becomes a barrier as students try to understand their options and determine the best path forward to degree completion. All of this institutional effort could be better directed at student success strategies instead of crafting complicated deals to overcome transfer barriers.

*So, I ask you to give House Bill 1082 a favorable report.* Help us document the challenges facing Maryland students and provide a foundation to craft a solution—a solution that makes transfer seamless to ensure every resident can succeed and expand Maryland's homegrown talent pool.

Thank you to Delegate Solomon and the co-sponsors of this legislation for their leadership on this important issue for Maryland.