

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH  
*Legislative District 30*  
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

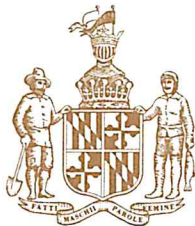
Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

*Senate Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

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March 11, 2020

**Testimony in Favor of SB1022**

**Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland - Tuition Exemption - Student Members**

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and fellow members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 1022. This bill would grant a tuition exemption to the Student Regent in the second year of their two-year term.

The Student Regent is a full-time member of the Board of Regents and are required to put in a tremendous amount of work in this role - to the point that this becomes a full-time job. Furthermore, the Student Regent has to maintain a full-time courseload through this endeavor which is equally time-consuming. This bill acknowledges the opportunity costs and potential financial sacrifices that these students make to be a part of the governance of their fellow students.

I had the privilege to serve as Student Regent from 2009-2010 - and I am proud to be the only member of the General Assembly to have served in that role (albeit the Vice-Chair was also a member of the Board). From this experience I know first-hand the burdens and challenges that these Student Regents experience, one being that there is simply no time to have another job for a source of income. Last year this body passed large-scale reforms to the Board of Regents, including adding a second Student Regent and extending the term from one to two years. This bill would give a tremendous but tailored benefit to these students in their second year of the role who serve their fellow students and the entire system.

SB 1022 will also not negatively affect the intentions and quality of those that become members of the Board as there is a thorough vetting and selection process to ensure committed, interested, and qualified students serve on the Board. Furthermore, there are several other states that have taken action to provide a similar benefit to their respective Student Regents including: California and North Dakota provide tuition remission and a tuition waiver respectively; Alaska, South Dakota, and Oregon provide some sort of stipend for the Student Regent's service in acknowledgement of the time commitment.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 1022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Elfreth".

Sarah Elfreth