

Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am Amanda Lattimore and I am an AP Computer Science teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools where I have taught for 19 years. I am also a resource teacher for the Career and Technical Education office and work with all 26 of our high schools. While we are constantly working on increasing diversity and equity in our school system, there are still some issues that need to be addressed in regards to AP credit policies.

I was thrilled to see the introduction of HB 1208 by Delegate Solomon, which seeks to create a task force to establish college credit policies for prior learning assessments like Advanced Placement or “AP” and CLEP. This bill also directs the Task Force to review whether a score of 3 on an AP Exam and a score of 50 on a CLEP test are effective measures for indicating student success. Research shows that students with these scores tend to do well in the subsequent college course, but some of Maryland’s public colleges and universities either don’t give credit at all or require higher scores.

With each public university setting its own AP/CLEP credit policies, variance and uncertainty occurs. For example, Coppin State University doesn’t appear to give any college credit for AP Biology, yet Bowie State gives credit for an AP Exam score of 4 while Towson University requires a 3. In computer science, I have had students pay to retake the AP exam because University of Maryland only accepts a 5 but other school accept a 3 or 4. You can see how this can create confusion.

Thirty-one states already have a uniform AP credit policy in place, including Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut; and 19 states have already adopted a uniform CLEP policy. With each university or college agreeing to the same policy, clarity and assurance is given to students. For their benefit, it’s time Maryland joined that number.

From a cost perspective, if every student who earned a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam last year received college credit, it would have yielded an estimated college cost savings to Maryland families of more than \$84 million, with approximately \$11 million of those savings attributed to low-income students alone. Strengthening the state’s AP/CLEP credit policies is an action we cannot afford to avoid. Our students need it.

Thank you for your time, and I urge support of the bill. I’d be happy to answer any questions.