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Committee

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Government Operations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the House Appropriations Committee
In Support Of
House Bill 1215

Internship Programs – Alteration, Creation, and Income Tax Credit

Madam Chairwoman of the Committee:

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin

It is more important now than ever to invest in and support our students. As a consequence of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), “[r]educations in income and the need for greater health spending will make it difficult for some families to cover education costs” and “[d]eclining incomes may also lead to shifts in enrollment from private schools to public schools, adding further pressure on public education budgets.”^{[1][2][3]} As the General Assembly, we need to address these issues for the sake of our college students and the future of our State.

House Bill 1215 directly addresses these issues. It would increase the maximum annual reimbursement for stipends to be paid to each intern under the Maryland Technology Internship Program. It would also establish the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program, which would:

- (1) Connect college and university students, recent graduates, and veterans with small humanities-based businesses through internships;
- (2) Encourage high-achieving students at institutions of higher education in the State to remain in the State after graduation;
- (3) Increase student understanding of employment opportunities in the State;
- (4) Create connections between students and community business leaders and entrepreneurs and develop opportunities for student involvement in communities;
- (5) Assist small humanities-based businesses in developing internship programs and recruiting future employees; and
- (6) Foster business retention and development, job creation, workforce development, and new investment in the State.

This bill also sets out how the University of Maryland Baltimore County would carry out this program, as well as the qualifications to be accepted into the program and forms of financial aid it would provide.

To make education more accessible to people who have been negatively affected by the pandemic, a student enrolled at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State who possesses a certificate of approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission would only need to maintain a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale each academic year. The program would also provide up to \$4,200 in financial aid for students, relating to housing, food, supplies, and transportation to and from the internship. Lastly of note, the program would provide tax credits up to \$4,200 for each eligible intern for enrolled employers as compensation for helping assist the State's efforts to provide this training to our students.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 1215.

March 9, 2021