



House Appropriations Committee

February 17, 2021

Submitted by

Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director

HB 702 - Higher Education – Standardized Tests – Prohibition of Use in Student Admissions

Letter of Information

Maryland's community colleges are open access institutions. We do not use standardized test to determine admissions. This does not mean that all students that attend our institutions are ready for credit bearing courses. Students must demonstrate they have the ability to benefit from credit bearing courses.

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges working with the Public-School Superintendents Association of Maryland have adopted multiple measures for college readiness. These multiple measures consist of a uniform GPA standard across all 16 of Maryland's community colleges and uniform thresholds on an array of standardized tests that have been vetted by our faculty and academic deans. Students meeting any of these standards are granted entry to credit bearing course work at any one of Maryland's community colleges.

Research has shown over time that standardized test scores are strongly correlated to socioeconomic factors and are not predictive of college success. Our institutions have long recognized that the GPA is a much better indicator of a student's ability to succeed in college. However, industry standards or accrediting boards make it necessary to use standardized tests for entry into our nursing programs as well as a number of our allied health programs.

Therefore, we ask that the committee permit the postsecondary institutions to adopt admission policies according to the respective missions and policies of each institution.