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Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
Health Facilities Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
In Support Of
House Bill 850
Higher Education – Maryland Corps Program Fund –
COVID–19 Emergency Funding Priorities

Mister Chair and Members of the Committee:

Civil public service has been a hallmark of American society and its citizens since the Red Cross was founded in Washington DC in 1881. Currently, a countless number of public service organizations, both domestic and foreign, provide health, education and workforce development services.

The pandemic has increased the need for a robust public health infrastructure. We have realized the essential nature of contract tracers, health care workers administering tests and vaccines, and social workers.

House Bill 850 would authorize the Maryland Corps Program Fund to give priority, in FY22 and 23, to corps participants who serve with a nonprofit or government agency engaged in certain critical services related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB850 would also, to the extent practicable, prioritize recruiting for certain corps participants involved in specified federal service programs if their terms ended early because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB850, with the amendment I am offering, seeks to coordinate this funding with the federal money coming to the State from the American Rescue Plan. We should have a plan for how that money is allocated and strive to spend every dollar for the public good. None of that money should be returned to Washington.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 850.

March 30, 2021