

**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



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 103  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3578  
Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156  
Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 25, 2021

**Testimony in Favor of SB0886**  
**Transfer with Success Act**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Environment, Health, and Education Affairs Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 886, the Transfer with Success Act. This legislation will help create an effective and transparent process for the transfer of credits in Maryland's higher education systems.

As this Committee well knows, students, many of whom are low-income or first-generation students, are choosing to transfer to four-year universities after starting their education in community colleges. This approach has the benefit of saving both the student and the State money and, ultimately, results in higher completion rates. Despite this, current transfer processes result in the loss of many credits which students have paid for and put time and effort into earning. Maryland can and must do better.

Senate Bill 886, the Transfer with Success Act, seeks to address this challenge by creating transparency within the transfer process and accountability for schools while protecting students.

The bill will require three critical practices in the transfer process by:

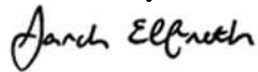
1. Requiring students and transfer coordinators to be notified not only of denied credits, but also the reasoning behind all denials;
2. Ensuring transfer coordinators conduct internal reviews into the denials within fifteen days of receiving a denial;
3. Requiring that all schools include a report of all denials and reasoning behind those denials in their annual reports to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Senate Bill 886 is not a silver bullet policy solution, but it is a positive step forward for tens of thousands of Maryland students. When a credit is denied it results in the State potentially, and at best, funding a student in the same class twice: once at the community college and once at the significantly more expensive four-year institution. At worst, a credit denial can stop a promising community college student in their pursuit of higher education. SB 886 does not seek to lower quality standards of the four-year

universities - it seeks to demystify a process that is shutting too many young people out. This General Assembly can then gain a fuller picture of the issue and take further action to ensure the best public policy.

We have the chance to shape and influence the future for education in Maryland. Every student moving on to higher education is another highly educated Marylander being added to the workforce. These students should not be punished for their desire for an affordable education - we must do all we can to bridge the gaps between community colleges and our four-year colleges and universities. SB 886 is a step forward in that effort. I again respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 886.

Sincerely,

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

Sarah Elfreth