



NAACP

Maryland

STATE CONFERENCE

**HOUSE BILL 96
WAYS & MEANS
CHAIRMAN ANNE KAISER
JANUARY 20, 2021**

THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE OFFERS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL 96. IT CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WHO WOULD NOT TRADITIONALLY BE ABLE TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND CREATE A FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILY.

THE BILL WILL ALSO ESTABLISH A POLICY THAT WILL ASSURE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO REQUIRE STUDENTS HAVE THEIR FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION IN PLACE WITHOUT CONCERNS ABOUT WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE AT THE TIME THAT THEY FILL OUT THE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE. BY HAVING THE PACKAGE IN PLACE IT ALLOWS STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT MAKE UP THEIR ABOUT COLLEGE.

ADDITIONALLY, IT AVOIDS A SITUATION WHERE SCHOOL COUNSELORS WHO MAY HAVE A FULL STUDENT LOAD TO NOT OVERLOOK STUDENTS FOR WHATEVER REASON.

WHILE I WAS THE BENEFITED FROM A TEACHER, NOT A SCHOOL COUNSELOR, WHO SAW ME WITH MY FAFSA PACKAGE WHEN I WAS IN 11TH GRADE. IF ANYONE HAS SEEN THIS PACKAGE IT IS VERY INTIMIDATING BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF PAPERWORK AND THE DETAILS OF FINANCIAL AND PERSON QUESTIONS THAT STUDENTS DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT THE PARENT. WELL, MY TEACHER, MRS. OGG, SAW ME PACKAGE AND SAT DOWN WITH ME AND FILLED OUT EACH AND EVERY PAGE. ON AREAS WHERE THERE WERE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY MOTHER'S PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHE LEFT IT BLANK. IT WASN'T UNTIL YEARS LATER WHEN I WOULD HEAR STORIES STUDENTS WHO HAD TO WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE OF NOT HAVE MONEY THAT I REALIZED THE HELP THAT SHE GAVE. BECAUSE OF IT I WAS ABLE TO FINISHED COLLEGE ON TIME WITH THE BENEFIT OF PELL GRANTS, LOANS AND WORK STUDY THAT I QUALIFIED FOR BECAUSE MY FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE WAS COMPLETED.

THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS LIKE ME WHO DID NOT HAVE OLDER SIBLINGS ARE PARENTS WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE. IT WILL ALLOW THEM THE CHANCE TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FUTURE BY EXTENDING THEIR EDUCATION IN COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TRADE SCHOOL.

FINALLY, THE STATE OF MARYLAND WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS BILL TO PASS BECAUSE ANY STUDENT WHO APPLIES WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF BEING ACCEPTED IN TO AND ATTENDING SOME OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. BECAUSE OF THE MANY OPTIONS A STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE ANY INSTITUTION BASED ON THERE INTEREST AND AFFORDABILITY. IF THIS BILL IS THE REASON FOR A STUDENT TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD COLLEGE THEN WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND.