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## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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### **HB 1098 - Public Institutions of Higher Education – Students With Chronic Health Conditions – Case Manager**

#### **Testimony of Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (FAV)**

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to present House Bill (HB) 1098. This bill requires each public institution of higher education to designate a case manager for students with chronic health conditions.

For children with chronic health conditions, the support they rely upon in their formative years of kindergarten through 12th grade evaporates once they graduate from high school and pursue higher education. Managing chronic care is challenging and many individuals with chronic conditions are often overlooked or ignored. We need to ensure that students are able to complete their education while having their needs met.

Last year, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) established a workgroup to examine the data available on students with chronic health conditions attending institutions of higher education in the State. The workgroup provided recommendations to eliminate challenges and accommodate the needs of students with chronic health conditions. One of those recommendations is the basis of this bill - “support campuses to employ centralized “case managers” for students to coordinate services among different departments (e.g., faculty, health centers, medical professionals, etc.).”<sup>1</sup>

The report states that “there are a number of resources campuses in Maryland may provide to students with chronic health conditions.”<sup>2</sup> This bill would require each institute of higher education in Maryland to provide case management services to utilize these existing resources. Case managers would help these students with chronic conditions by coordinating preventions, interventions, and support efforts across campus and community systems to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021\\_197b.pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021_197b.pdf), page 17

<sup>2</sup> [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021\\_197b.pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021_197b.pdf), page 13

reduce barriers that impede academic success. They would serve as a coordinator of existing services and a liaison to communicate with other campus staff and organizations.

The case manager would also collect data and information on currently available programs, services, and outcomes. This would serve to enhance and continue data collections on students with chronic health conditions, another recommendation of the report.<sup>3</sup>

The purpose of this bill is not to reinvent the wheel or cause an inconvenience to our institutions of higher education. Student case management programs already exist at the University of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University.<sup>4</sup> Loyola recently implemented case management services to support residential students that test positive for COVID-19.<sup>5</sup> Goucher College utilizes clinical case management to help students locate community mental health care services during the summer.<sup>6</sup> UMBC has Academic Advocates who follow a coordinated care case management model that facilitates support to undergraduate students.<sup>7</sup> These services already successfully exist in some institutions of higher education, providing a blueprint for others to follow. Case management is an easy and effective recommendation suggested by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to support students with chronic conditions.

This bill is the first step in ensuring that every child in our state grows up with the opportunity to reach their dreams and aspirations. Young adulthood is the time for those dreams to come to fruition. We owe it to this often-overlooked population of students to give them support and help while they seek their academic goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1098. I respectfully request a favorable report.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021\\_197b.pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2021/2021_197b.pdf), page 9

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ubalt.edu/about-ub/offices-and-services/dean-of-students/compass/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.loyola.edu/about/coronavirus-update/campus-plan/health-safety/case-management>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.goucher.edu/experience/living-well/student-counseling-center/case-management>

<sup>7</sup> <https://academicsuccess.umbc.edu/coordinated-care/>