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Economic Matters Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
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**Testimony for HB 54: Higher Education - St. Mary's College of Maryland - Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the committee. I am Del. Brian Crosby and it's an honor to present House Bill 54 entitled **Higher Education - St. Mary's College of Maryland - Cost-of-Living Adjustment**.

The purpose of this bill is to raise the percentage of the cost-of-living adjustment provided by the State for employees of St. Mary's College of Maryland from 50% to 100%. Currently, both the University System of Maryland and Morgan State University receive 100% of the state employee COLA. This bill would update the funding formula to include St. Mary's College into the current standards for other public universities across the state. The employees of St. Mary's work hard to provide a quality education and deserve the basic increase to cover cost of life inflation. We shouldn't prioritize one higher education institution's employees over another.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to provide a favorable report on HB 54.