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Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of House Bill 87

Higher Education – Returned Peace Corps Volunteers – In-State Tuition

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am a former Peace Corps Volunteer, and understand first-hand the dedication and level of service Peace Corps Volunteers provide around the world.

Upon returning to the United States after my service, I pursued my Master's in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, and subsequently incurred thousands of dollars of student loan debt. I would not have personally benefited from the exemption proposed in House Bill 87, but because I have the same lived experience as the returned Peace Corps Volunteers, I know how important this bill would be for them. I am in full support of any assistance provided to returned Peace Corps Volunteers, especially those in pursuit of higher education.

This bill is specifically relevant to the times since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. After March 2020 many Peace Corps Volunteers were required to return early to the United States without completing their service. However upon returning, these Maryland Peace Corps Volunteers were not considered Maryland residents, and those pursuing higher education were not able to receive in-state tuition at Maryland public schools of higher education.

This bill helps to restore the right to higher education for returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have courageously served their country. I respectfully request a favorable report.

Delegate Robbyn Lewis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robbyn Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.