



BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

March 10, 2022

TESTIMONY

**Submitted by
Dr. Maureen Murphy, President**

SB799: Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers – Funding

Position: Favorable

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 799, which recognizes the unintended consequences of well-meaning legislation.

Students in foster care or homeless, active duty military members and their families, the children of public safety employees, senior citizens, students receiving Social Security disability, members of the Maryland National Guard. All of these students deserve a break, and they've received one through a variety of laws which grant them waivers from tuition and fees at community colleges.

Community colleges provide affordable, high quality educational programs for the students they serve; however, the effect of waivers such as those referenced in SB799 without any revenue offset is that savings for one set of students can become increased tuition for another set.

Community colleges provide opportunities for social and economic mobility for students who would otherwise have no chance, and the qualifying students who receive waivers for tuition and fees benefit even more. The funds provided by SB799 would offset much of the cost of these waivers and help keep tuition low for non-qualifying students.

SB799 creates a revenue stream to help offset some community college losses while preserving the intent of helping vulnerable populations.

I urge you to give Senate Bill 799 a favorable report.

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