



11400 Robinwood Drive • Hagerstown, Maryland 21742-6590 • 240-500-2000

*Office of the President*

**Hagerstown Community College  
Senate Bill 799 – Reimbursement of State Mandated Tuition and Residency Waivers**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
3/10/22**

**Testimony Submitted by  
Dr. James Klauber**

Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 795. Hagerstown Community College is in support of this legislation.

What state legislator or even college president doesn't want to help those who valiantly serve our country or come from challenging backgrounds of abuse, human trafficking, etc... when those individuals want to go to college? Of course! Everyone wants to help. For those very good reasons, the Maryland General Assembly has extended tuition waivers for many of our citizens who attend college on their pathway out of an unfortunate situation not of their own making or have dutifully served their state and country in some capacity.

The challenge is that colleges have never been reimbursed for the lost revenue from those legislatively mandated tuition waivers. Yes, colleges got the state funding and local funding for FTE. However, the tuition cost, which is not insignificant, was borne by tuition paying students. This presents a serious equity problem within the colleges.

Approximately 45% of all tuition paying students are on full Pell assistance at Hagerstown Community College. Our students are not of means. While they may not qualify for a waiver, they do come from challenging circumstances. Each year, HCC passes almost \$50,000 in student waiver costs on to tuition paying students. Those are tuition costs that could be avoided.

We support this legislation as it will fund the lost revenue from legislatively mandated tuition waivers. No one wants to deny these waivers to students entitled to receive them. This is a good and positive policy in our state. This bill will complete the circle and see that others students are not forced to carry the additional cost.

Yours truly,

Dr. James Klauber  
President