

## Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

### Testimony

Submitted by

Tomozia Graves, Student Transfer, Harford Community College

[tgraves@harford.edu](mailto:tgraves@harford.edu)

Senate Bill 620- Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures – Workgroup Study (Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act)

**POSITION:** Favorable

My name is Tomozia Graves and I am a graduate of Harford Community College who transferred to Towson University Northeastern (TUNE). I am testifying today in strong support of Senator Cassilly's Senate Bill 620.

As a current graduate student at Towson University, I have endured many challenges to get to where I am today. However, my journey as a transfer student was seamless. Having this bill approved would enable more students to have a seamless transfer experience.

My experience as a transfer student was unique. I worked as a Peer Mentor Work-Study student, as well as landing a Peer Advising Assistant position in the Advising, Career, and Transfer Services office while attending Harford Community College. I had the privilege of working with many students and served as a guide as they navigated the transfer process. As a result, I saw first-hand the benefits of transferring and the positive outcomes of it, if done properly.

I was the type of student who didn't want to feel behind, so I made every effort to ensure I would graduate from HCC on time and transfer to my chosen 4-year university. When I discovered that TUNE had started a Communications Studies program, I knew that was where I wanted to transfer to. HCC and TUNE provided program folders with detailed information about which classes students need to take at Harford before transferring and which classes they should take after transferring. This made the entire process easy. Seeing my course path outlined so clearly reduced the stress of the transfer process. All of my credits transferred and I was able to avoid the financial strain of having to retake classes.

As a community college employee, I know that the clear path I took was the result of careful planning between Harford Community College and Towson. But I also know that not every student has an easy transfer process. In my current role at the College as a Mentor, I work with students every week who lose credits in the transfer process. This means that they'll need to spend time and money retaking classes that they thought would transfer.

I'm grateful that my transfer process was smooth. I received financial aid for my education and also received scholarships from high school, including one from Senator Cassilly. I'm currently pursuing a Master's degree in Communication Management. And as someone who now works

with community college students every day, As I said, my transfer story is unique—but I believe every community college student should be able to have the same opportunity.

Senate Bill 620 will enable Maryland post-secondary institutions in gifting students with the opportunity they need to succeed.