



EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

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

POSITION: Favorable

My name is Laura Henninger and I am the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Harford Community College. I am submitting the following written testimony in support of Senator Cassilly's Senate Bill 620, the Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures – Workgroup Study (Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act).

Maryland's community colleges enroll and educate over 100,000 students annually—a significant percentage of students who attend higher education institutions statewide. Some of the students who attend community colleges come to us with the intention of only pursuing a certificate or an associate degree. But many of the students we serve have career aspirations that require a bachelor's degree. Those students expect that the credits they pay for—and spend countless hours on each semester—will seamlessly transfer to Maryland's four-year institutions.

But we know that nationally, students lose, on average, 43% of their college credits when they transfer between higher education institutions. Although Maryland has legislation in place that addresses credit transfer between community colleges and four-year institutions, community college students continue to lose credits during the transfer process.

Senate Bill 620 calls for the creation of a workgroup to explore the barriers that continue to prevent community college students from transferring all their credits to four-year institutions. With representation from all of the institutions that educate our future workforce, I'm hopeful that we can eliminate the barriers that prevent our students from having their credits transfer.