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HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic  
Development

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families

*House Chair*

Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0384: Institutions of Higher Education – Transcripts –  
Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt**

**Bill Hearing: February 14th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Economic Matters Committee**

**Chairman Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Mark S. Chang, and members of the House  
Appropriations Committee,**

For years it has been common practice for institutions of higher education to withhold transcripts to coerce students into paying their debt. If we continue to allow institutions to use transcripts as a tool to make students pay back their debt, we hinder the ability of Maryland's students to succeed. That is why I am sponsoring HB0384, which would prohibit colleges and universities from withholding a student's transcript as a punitive measure for not paying back their student debt.

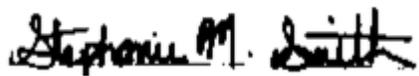
Transcripts are essential for students to be able to get the job of their choice, transfer schools, and apply to graduate programs, among many other important functions. Students have earned the credits and distinctions on their transcripts and deserve to have access to the official documentation of their achievements.

Further, we should be promoting ways for students to be able to pay off their student loan debt. By limiting students' job prospects, we are increasing the burden of the already crushing amount of student debt for many. This bill will not forgive any loans, but by giving students more opportunities to obtain good-paying work, we are easing some of the barriers that prevent students from paying back their debt. Therefore, if schools want student loans to be repaid, it is in the school's best interest to allow students to secure their official transcripts.

In sum, this bill protects Maryland's students from abusive practices and allows them to reach their full potential.

I urge you to vote favorably for HB0384.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith