



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Dear Chair Ben Barnes and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 923 with amendments as outlined in testimony of the Maryland Alliance for College Affordability and Equity. I agree that improvements in the state's need-based financial aid programs – Educational Assistance Grant (EAG), Guaranteed Access Grant (GAG), Next Generation Scholars program (NGS) and the Promise Scholarship – are crucial and will make a significant impact on the future of thousands of Marylanders and the state's economy. The low-income students in Prince George's County need enhanced outreach support as they prepare for college and navigate the complicated process of applying for financial assistance.

I believe that a comprehensive study is needed to develop a simpler and more equitable process - the state's current need-based financial aid programs are too complex and the application process presents numerous barriers for students from low-income families in my county. Further, enhanced funding for community-based organizations to support outreach to students and parents should be provided since these services truly enhance the success of students from low-income families.

Sincerely,

Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer