

HB1129 Daisy Velasco_fav..pdf

Uploaded by: Daisy Velasco

Position: FAV

Data March 14th, 2023

Good Afternoon,

My name is Daisy Velasco and I am here to testify for support of HB 1129. I graduated from the University of Maryland College Park in December 2019 with a bachelor's in Community Health. While this is a major victory, it could not have been done without the help of First Generation College Bound.

I learned about First Generation College Bound, when I was in middle school. At the time, I wasn't sure what the program did to help students, but I knew that I wanted to go to college, so I decided to take a chance and enroll. Things happened along the way and unfortunately I was disconnected from the program. I forgot about it. However, a few years later Mr. Fisher came to my high school looking for me, and once he found me I was able to see FGCB complete its mission through me.

From the moment I came back to the program, First Generation College Bound guided me through the college process. They showed me how to apply to schools and more importantly, how to apply for financial aid. First Generation College Bound's outreach, both on an individual and a group level, provided me the needed advice, encouragement, and support to receive the Maryland Higher Education, Howard P Rawling GA grant to graduate college with zero debt. Now, First Generation College Bound is providing this same outreach to my younger brother. Because of the help of First Generation College Bound, my brother is now a junior at the University of Maryland College Park and he has also received the Maryland Higher Education Guaranteed Access Grant.

As for me, I am now a student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Although there is very little financial help available for school after undergraduate studies, FGCB has helped me find the few resources that do exist. Even though I have already completed my undergraduate studies, FGCB has never just left me on my own, they continue to be a tremendous support. Each individual within FGCB continues to provide support in a multitude of ways.

It does not matter what your GPA is. It does not matter how smart you may be. Many times it doesn't even matter how hard you may try. Without the guidance and support of an outreach and college access program such as First Generation College Bound, the college dream remains just that, a dream.

FGCB has invested time and resources for students like me to be successful and I am grateful to them. If it were not for First Generation College Bound my story of success would be completely different. With the help of this Bill, I am certain that there will be many more stories like my own.

Thank You!

HB1129 Kethya Kalaki_fav..pdf

Uploaded by: Kethya Kalaki

Position: FAV

Kethya Kalaki

March 13, 2023

FGCB Outreach Testimony

I first found out about FGCB from a family friend. I was struggling with my financial situation and financial aid for college at the time, and my family friend, having had a similar situation in the past, knew exactly what I was going through. Once I explained everything to them they knew exactly who to put me in contact with to get me help that I needed and that was Mr. Fisher, the founder and CEO of FGCB. The day they connected me to Mr. Fisher was the same day that the FAFSA applications were due and Mr. Fisher did not hesitate to reach out immediately. I explained everything to him; I was very honest with the issues I was facing. Mr. Fisher was very understanding and did not judge me at all for those issues. I remember I got his phone call around 8pm that night on March 1st of 2021. He listened to my story and urged me to create an FSA ID and start my application. Mr. Fisher motivated me to get everything done that night. We were calling back and forth with Mr. Fisher's staff providing me with information and answers to the many questions I had during the entire application process. And despite all the technical issues I encountered that night, I managed to get my application submitted before the deadline of 11:59pm.

I would say that I have FGCB to thank for me going to college right now, being a full-time student, living on campus. Through FGCB, I was given the tools and information that helped me apply and receive the financial aid I needed for my education. The program assigned me a Coach, Ms. Cobbs, who helped me by laying out all my options on the table and explaining all of them to me in detail so that I knew what all these options included and what that meant for

me. She helped me decipher my financial awards, which in turn led me to select the university that fit best for me.

FGCB made sure to make me aware of all the opportunities I had. They informed me about the grants and scholarships that were available to me that I was not aware of before. They gave me tips on how to apply for things; how to reach out to the Senators and Delegates in my area to ask for the grants that they were offering to students like me. They showed me how to navigate the MHEC MDCAPS website, etc.

A program like FGCB should continue to receive funding for outreach because there are still many other students like me; helpless and unaware first-generation students with no one before them to guide them, that would really use the support provided at FGCB. Many have the potential and will to go to college but do not have the financial means to do so. And that is when a program like FGCB comes in and saves the day by providing the support that the student needs; mentoring, coaching, and guiding them on their journey of transitioning to college. And it doesn't just end there, FGCB still follows up with the student even during their years in college to make sure they are alright and set in the financial situation for college.

I will forever be grateful to FGCB for the help and support that they provided me during the difficult time I was facing while transitioning to college. Being a first-generation student in the United States, I had no one to guide or orient me through this process. I felt utterly alone and helpless and my own parents could not help me even if they tried because they do not know how the education system is in this country. The support I received from FGCB will never be forgotten in my mind. When I was helpless and I didn't know where to go or who to ask for help they were there, genuinely helping me every step of the way. And for that I am forever grateful and I bless the family friend who first introduced me to the program.

HB 1129 MICUA_FAV FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Power

Position: FAV

140 South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Written Support

Appropriations Committee

HB 1129 – (Rosenberg) Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program – Funding

Matt Power, President

mpower@micua.org

March 16, 2023

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 56,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of [HB 1129 - Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program - Funding](#). This bill increases the annual appropriation for the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (program) from \$200,000 to be \$2 million. This increased funding will ensure that more low-income students have access to the supports and services that they may need to pursue their dream of higher education.

The program has been instrumental in increasing college access to low-income Maryland high school students and in helping them to complete a college education. Now more than ever, outreach efforts to encourage students to enroll in a college or university are vital to their future aspirations and career goals. Every Maryland student should be provided support services to educate them on the various post-secondary educational opportunities that exist after high school.

All institutions of higher education in Maryland, including the MICUA institutions, benefit from the program. Students who participate in the program are better prepared for college and future careers and are often recipients of Guaranteed Access Grant (GA) funding. MICUA member institutions are committed to helping students obtain the financial help they need to make private college affordable. Therefore, all thirteen of MICUA's State-aided institutions participate in the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP). GAPP is a public-private partnership program that helps close the affordability gap to attend a private institution. Students who receive a GA award from the State are eligible for a matching grant from the MICUA institution. Since 2017, GAPP has matched over \$55 million to nearly 3,000 Maryland students.



AFFILIATES



We appreciate Delegate Rosenberg's commitment to making higher education accessible to low-income Maryland high school students through the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherman@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 1129.

Testimony HB 1129_Rosenberg_Appropriations.pdf

Uploaded by: Samuel Rosenberg

Position: FAV

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

☐ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

☐ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Appropriations Committee

in Support of House Bill 1129

Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program – Funding

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Since it was established as a pilot program in 2015, the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) has been connecting prospective college students from low-income families with nonprofit organizations specializing in fostering successful college completion. But the program has been constrained by limited resources and needs more substantial funding to ensure that students receiving need-based state grants and scholarships receive the necessary advising and support during college to complete their degrees.

House Bill 1129 would increase Maryland's commitment to the MD-HEOCAP program from \$500,000 to \$2 million annually, boosting the funding devoted to in-college advising and enabling the non-profits that receive grants through the program to reach many more students. Despite the well-known economic advantages of obtaining a college degree and the availability of need-based aid, high-achieving low-income high school students are less likely to go to college than their peers from better-off families – and if they do attend, are less likely to complete their degrees.

Data from the CollegeBound Foundation, which works with graduates of Baltimore City public schools, indicates that students are much more likely to complete their degrees if they have compulsory advising during college. To date, 75 percent of CollegeBound scholars, who receive intensive mandatory college advising, have completed their bachelor's degrees, well above the graduation rate for other students statewide.

By supporting advising and related services to navigate higher education, we can better ensure that the more than \$120 million that the state of Maryland awards annually in need-based grants and scholarships actually achieves its goals of not just getting Maryland students to college – but through it.

I urge the committee to give HB 1129 a favorable report.

March 16, 2023

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Uploaded by: Amma Felix

Position: FWA



March 16, 2023 • 1:00 p.m.

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

HB 1129 – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program – Funding

**Testimony of Amma Felix
President & CEO, Collegiate Directions, Inc.
Bethesda, Maryland**

And Secretary of the Maryland Alliance for College Access and Affordability

Good afternoon, Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair and Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair. I would like to thank you for the invitation to speak here today about HB 1129 – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program (MD-HEOCAP) – Funding sponsored by Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg.

My name is Amma Felix, president & CEO of Collegiate Directions, Inc. (CDI), a comprehensive nonprofit organization that focuses on college access and completion for low-income, first-generation-to-college high school students in Montgomery County. We were one of the recipients of the MD-HEOCAP pilot grants back in 2016 and in past written testimony I shared our results which all exceeded goal. For today, I want to share with you why **removing the match requirement** from this proposed increased funding under HB 1129 is **essential** for the future of Maryland's workforce.

We are testifying in support of HB 1129 with an amendment—removal of the match requirement.

Why Funding is Needed

The purpose of the funding in HB 1129 is to support nonprofit organizations that are **already established** in communities to provide targeted outreach to **increase the number** of low-income students **attending and completing** college. To do so funding is required for staff to work one-on-one with students and families all throughout the admissions and financial aid processes which have undergone a range of changes over the last two years and whose horizon also includes change.

In 2021, as reported in a recent National College Attainment Network (NCAN) analysis, Maryland had \$58.3M in unclaimed FAFSA funds!

This means that students who were eligible for those funds are not accessing them and need the right supports to do so. Research shows that students who don't enroll in college immediately following high school are less likely ever get a college degree.

The State's Department of Legislative Services (January 2022) reported that total undergraduate enrollment at the State's public institutions decreased across all segments by 5.8% in Fall 2021, nationally the number is 3.1% (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, January 2022). The Center also reports that **students from low-income families are disproportionately affected**. It is clear that more public resources are needed to stem the tide.

In its effort to reach its 55% college achievement goal by 2025, the State will benefit by partnering with **already established** nonprofits whose staff have a successful track record working with this vulnerable population. Our students need to work with staff who are skilled and have the technical expertise to

understand *both* admissions *and* financial aid. Currently the State does not have the person-power, nor do local high school counseling offices, to give the amount of time that is required to ensure that students complete FAFSA forms accurately and on-time. **In Maryland, the ratio of students to one counselor is 369:1!** There is no way that all students are getting the type of support that is required to navigate through the college admissions *and* completion processes. We want to make sure in the admissions portion of the equation we include what it takes to complete college, we want students to attain a degree. Trained nonprofit staff have years of experience counseling students through the byzantine process to complete FAFSA and state financial aid processes including verification which is a particularly cumbersome process that the majority of low-income students get flagged for and can result in them NOT getting funding if there are missteps. There are too many barriers that prevent low-income students to access and complete college. **Students need deeper support to help them complete the requisite steps to get a degree.** The State needs nonprofit providers to help it achieve its goal to ensure that 55% of college-aged adults secure one credential by 2025, right now we are NOT on track and we need to press all the levers at our disposal to get us there.

A \$2M appropriation to be included in the annual budget will allow for the stability nonprofits need to be able to provide consistent high quality support to increase the number of low-income students completing college. This support includes working closely with students and families with their personal and highly sensitive financial information which requires consistent follow-up along with both trust and skill to ensure the required information is presented accurately and on time. College access and completion nonprofits are the right partners for this work.

Why Removal of the Match is Necessary

Educational nonprofits provide essential services that neither local school districts nor state/local governments are not able to do. We work intensely one-on-one with students and families **to complete** complex and administratively burdensome college admissions and state and federal financial aid applications. Low-income students have special circumstances and are disproportionately flagged for verification which requires another layer of technical support to overcome the additional administrative burdens required to secure the financial support for which they are eligible. **In order to achieve these results, you need skilled and up-to-date trained professionals to provide guidance at every step of the way.** This is a requirement if we want to ensure college graduation.

You need strong organizations that have the *infrastructure* to provide these highly specialized services to Marylanders. By the state's own evaluation, the organizations that have received funding under the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program in the past achieved intended results and are worthy of continued investment. Many of these providers are unduly challenged by raising the revenue needed to *properly* support their operations. A **shrinking funding environment for this work** includes donors with geographic limitations; changing institutional priorities away from college access and completion; recent negative economic shortfalls including a decrease in institutional philanthropic endowments for smaller foundations, to name a few. **Having a match requirement can put the funds in this bill out of reach for most of the intended nonprofits it is designed to support.** Established educational nonprofits, outlined in this bill, that have a documented mission targeted to supporting low-income Marylanders and have a long track record of results are in dire need of increased state support to continue to achieve their past exceptional outcomes long into the future.

We must do all that we can to ensure that all students regardless of family income status, race or ethnicity graduate from college. To do so will be a transformative experience for them as individuals, for the future trajectory of their families and for the long-term viability and relevance of our nation. The Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program, **with sufficient funding AND removal of the match**, is an important lever in supporting college attainment among low-income students and other populations. We ask that you support the bill with an amendment to remove the match requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have and working with you on increasing the opportunity for college degree attainment for Marylanders across the state.

HB 1129 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna Callahan

Position: FWA

KIPP Forward

March 10th, 2023

To Members of the Maryland House of Delegates:

I am writing to advocate for and support HB 1129 outlining increases to the budget for the Maryland Higher Education Commission Outreach and College Access Program. As a longtime member of KIPP Baltimore's College and Career Support Team, I write to advocate for the hundreds of students I support each year as they pursue their professional and personal goals.

I have worked in Maryland with college-enrolled students for eight years. In that time our organization has supported hundreds of students who receive funding from MHEC; for context, more than 80% of the KIPP alumni on my caseload are eligible for Pell grants. **The Maryland Higher Education Commission Outreach and College Access Program has been instrumental in giving Maryland students access to higher education,** while also providing a sustainable financial pathway to graduation. Programs like KIPP Forward are crucial in supporting students as they prepare for, gain admission to, and enter college: we work one-on-one with students, completing the FAFSA, discussing career options, securing housing and countless additional matriculation steps that happen before a student steps foot on campus. We do this in partnership with school-based counselors because we recognize their capacity is often diminished due to their many responsibilities. Once admitted, we continue to work with our students while they are on campus, and we are committed to serving them as they successfully persist to graduation - and beyond. Programs like ours are crucial in bridging the gap between our students' unlimited potential and the learning experiences that will serve their career goals; unless there is a broader shift to the paradigm of counseling services provided by public schools, many Maryland students will continue to rely on college/career access organizations like ours.

This funding is critical for students to persist in college to completion, achieve their higher education aspirations, and ultimately attain their unique career goals. The increase is critical to ensuring that the programs like ours can continue to support student access to the Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) state financial programs. Not only an investment in Maryland students, this funding is also an investment in the future of our state as an economic and workforce leader. **I support every effort to increase students' access to MHEC programs.** Our program has benefitted from MHEC grant funding, allowing us to do the most important work: *directly supporting students through (often-complex) federal and state financial programs and ultimately to earning a college degree.*

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with further questions, to consult with KIPP Baltimore leadership, or to hear from my KIPP Forward colleagues.



Brianna Callahan, MSW
Manager of Alumni Persistence, KIPP Baltimore

HB 1129 Deja Cobbs_fwa..pdf

Uploaded by: Deja Cobbs

Position: FWA

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, March 16, 2023
HB 1129

Good afternoon. I am pleased to testify for House Bill 1129 with the amendment not requiring a financial match.

I am Deja Cobbs, the Director of Programs at First Generation College Bound. First Generation College Bound is a non-profit organization that serves high school students in Prince George's County for the past 32 years. FGCB makes a long-term commitment to the young people we serve for them to attend and most importantly graduate college.

Our organization works with students and their families to navigate the complicated processes of preparing and applying for college. A critical part of this process is applying for financial aid. As we know, navigating through the financial aid process is very difficult, particularly for students who are the first in their families to attend college. Many of our students are recipients of state grants and even your legislative scholarships, but for students to complete the process to receive this funding we have to work very closely with our families, students, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance of the Maryland Higher Education Commission(MHEC). Over the past 32 years, we have assisted 2,639 students who have entered college, 964 who have graduated, and there are another 1,549 currently in college.

Since year one our CEO and founder have been removing barriers for low-income students to go to college and graduate. This fight continues today as we still see many graduating seniors not knowing how to apply for financial aid. Some believe if the student performs well academically that they should know how to complete the process to get into college. However, this is not the case because those same students still need advice, encouragement, and support to graduate from college. As you will hear today from our student's testimonies it was because of outreach funding we were able to help students who did not attend our high schools get the Guaranteed Access Grant. According to the Maryland Higher Education Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance, only 32% of

first-time GA potentially eligible students received the GA grant in 2021. Many of the students and their families never heard of MHEC or knew about the state grants they were eligible to receive. This is where our outreach efforts go, to increase the knowledge of state grants and scholarships for eligible students to receive the funding they need to attend college.

As you know in 2020 our world shut down due to COVID-19, this impacted many graduating seniors. Due to outreach efforts, FGCB was still able to serve 316 students from 2020-2022. In 2022 alone we served 186 students who received a total of 2.3 million dollars in financial aid. This again was due to outreach funding and the efforts of meeting our students where they are as you will hear today.

Due to the recent legislation passed regarding FAFSA completion in the state of Maryland, outreach funding enabled us to provide FAFSA outreach in our 7 high schools located in Prince George's County. Before the March 1st deadline we were able to speak with seniors about why completing the FAFSA is important. We also assisted our 7 high schools with seniors understanding how to apply for legislative scholarships, how to create an MDCAPS account, and how to complete the Maryland State Financial Aid Application, (MSFAA). Although we were able to do this in 7 high schools many other schools in and around Prince George's county are challenged with FAFSA completion, MSFAA completion, and understanding state grants/ scholarships. The increase in outreach funding will allow us to speak with many other seniors in other schools about the FAFSA, MSFAA, and MDCAPS. This will also help students apply for legislative scholarships which many are not aware of.

First Generation College Bound and many other organizations like ours would not be able to assist students with understanding the financial aid process, in order to attend college and most importantly graduate from state institutions. The increase in funding will allow us to help many low-income students and not just a few.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the amendment for HB 1129.

MERIT_TESTIMONY_HB 1129_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Jimmy Tadlock

Position: FWA



1 N Haven St
Suite 4
Baltimore, MD 21224
www.meritbaltimore.org

TESTIMONY ON HB 1129
House Appropriations Committee
by the

Medical Educational Resource Initiatives for Teens, Inc (MERIT)
March 15, 2023

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Vice Chair
Dr. Rudy Ruiz

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Chitamawe Daka-Mulwanda

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(Co-Founder)
Shyam Gadwal

Dr. Krista Ratliff

Dr. Scott Wright

Geoffrey Genth

Dr. David Hellmann

Dr. Ilana Mittman

Chair Rosenberg, members of the Committee. My name is Jimmy Tadlock, Executive Director, Medical Educational Resource Initiatives for Teens, Inc (MERIT). I am pleased to provide testimony on HB 1129 on behalf of Medical Educational Resource Initiatives for Teens, Inc (MERIT). I am testifying in support of HB 1129 with amendments. MERIT supports the requirement that the Governor include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program; and generally relating to student financial assistance programs. This is crucial for nonprofit organizations like MERIT to provide outreach and make a significant impact on the future of thousands of Marylanders and the state's economy.

I. MERIT supports the following provisions included in the bill.

1. Encourage low-income Maryland high school students to attend and complete college.
2. Connect potential college and university students with nonprofit organizations that have a history of successful higher education outcomes for targeted youth.
3. Create an equal matching fund for nonprofit organizations to access in order to increase college outreach services to low-income students.
4. Provide funding for nonprofit organizations that are already established in communities to provide targeted outreach to encourage low-income students to enroll in college; and
5. Increase the number of low-income students attending and succeeding in college.

II. The Commission shall administer the Program.

To carry out the purposes of the Program, the Commission shall:

1. Establish a grant program to be published on the Commission's website.

through which nonprofit organizations may learn about eligibility, application, and compliance requirements and apply for funding as provided under this subtitle.

2. Develop application requirements and review and approve applications.
3. Develop a process for verifying that matching funds are available; and
4. Allocate funding to approved nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis.

III. To be eligible for participation in the Program, a nonprofit organization shall:

1. Be located in the State.
2. Have a contract or memorandum of understanding with a local school system or an institution of higher education or must establish one if one does not exist; and
3. NOT required to pursue an equal match for funds requested.

IV. A nonprofit organization that receives funding through the Program shall:

1. Submit data on outreach programs.
2. Track student progress through the higher education system; and
3. Submit annual reports to the Commission on or before October following the fiscal year in which funds were received.

V. MERIT recommends amendments as follows:

1. NOT BE required to pursue an equal match for funds requested. Small nonprofits like MERIT, struggle each year to obtain sustained funding. Many donors limit donations to one year or may change the focus of their giving strategies. We recommend matching funding not be a requirement for this reason.

Respectfully submitted by Jimmy Tadlock, Executive Director, Medical Educational Resource Initiatives for Teens, Inc (MERIT).

HB1129_MACC_JGreene_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FWA



60 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-987-8117

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Testimony by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
March 16, 2023

HB1129 – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program – Funding

POSITION: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, thanks Delegate Rosenberg for the sponsorship of HB1129 to provide more funding to the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program. This program allocates matched funding to support nonprofits providing low-income students access to college and university.

Community colleges play a vital role in providing accessible and affordable higher education to students from all walks of life. Some students have difficulty navigating Maryland's current financial aid programs, which can be a barrier to pursuing post-secondary education. We believe that the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program provides a complement to our efforts to make higher education accessible to all Marylanders.

MACC would like to add a friendly amendment to strengthen the reporting requirement to help us better understand the impact and outcomes. Accountability on the effectiveness of these programs is to the benefit of these organizations and the students they serve. We are interested in the required data being disaggregated by higher education segment.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, our amendment, and all your efforts to meet the needs of the students we serve. MACC asks the Committee to give HB1129 a favorable report with amendments.

Joe Fisher testimony 1129 3-14-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Fisher

Position: FWA



First Generation College Bound

“Bridging the Home, Church, School and, Community for Success”

March 14,2023

Good Afternoon, Chairman Barnes and members of the Committee.

My name is Joe Fisher. I am the CEO and Founder of First Generation College Bound and Chair of the Maryland Alliance for College Affordability and Equity. I am pleased to be here to testify in support of HB1129 Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program Funding with an amendment to remove the financial match.

For 32 years FGCB has been providing Education Outreach and College Access to more than **2600** low-income students to attend college and graduate. FGCB is one of the many programs that recognize the required human resources to reach the many eligible low-income students. Due to the coaching outreach and college access support our students have received, 1,500 are currently enrolled in college and 1,032 have higher education achievements.

It is important you know I recognized the value and need for Outreach and College Access services to low-income students, due to my personal experience growing up in Public Housing. In my community, only outstanding academic students or athletes attended college due to earning a scholarship. Knowing that money was needed to attend college, graduate high school, get a job, or join the military was the goal. However, I become the stereotypical outstanding athlete and was awarded a scholarship to attend college. During my freshmen year, I learned I was eligible for a grant equal to my scholarship. The next year I accepted the grant and stayed on the team informing my coach so he could recruit another student-athlete to be awarded the scholarship. From this experience, I learned that students from low-income families were eligible for need base grants and were not aware. As a result, FGCB was founded recognizing the need for Outreach and College Access services for low-income students to attend college and graduate. Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington growing up in public housing represents one of our many Alumni, who received College Outreach and

8101 Sandy Spring Road, Suite 230, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Phone: 301-490-0911 Toll Free Fax: 866-811-0130

www.fgcb.org



First Generation College Bound

“Bridging the Home, Church, School and, Community for Success”

Access Services receiving the Guaranteed Access Grant. He attended the University of Maryland Park to graduate with little to no debt.

Today knowing the many students from low-income families in Maryland needing the Outreach and Access Program services, First Generation College Bound supports increase funding to help the many low-income students to attend college not the few with an amendment of a match not being required

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Fisher
CEO/Founder

8101 Sandy Spring Road, Suite 230, Laurel, Maryland 20707
Phone: 301-490-0911 Toll Free Fax: 866-811-0130
www.fgcb.org