

March 9, 2023

Honorable Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB912 Academic Accommodations Policy

Dear Chair Barnes and House Appropriations Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 912 sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero. My name is Dua Hussain. I'm a member of the freshman class of 2026, pursuing degrees in Anthropology, Writing Seminars and Pre-Medicine.

My faith, as a Muslim, is a large part of my life, but lacking accommodations makes it difficult to balance my religion with my education. I often struggle to find appropriate, safe places to pray in between classes, work, and club meetings.

I only know of one space on my university's campus where I can pray. That room is in a building that is furthest from my most frequented buildings, which leaves me praying in the corners of hallways, empty classrooms, and in empty offices. People don't usually realize that I am praying and will interrupt, making it far more difficult for me to take part in my religious practices.

Not only this, but when I require a day off for religious reasons and there is an exam on that day, my professors don't schedule a time for me to be able to take the exam. They simply remove it from the gradebook, which makes it much more difficult to get a good grade as most courses only have exams to determine the final grade. This lack of support makes it difficult for me to practice my faith on campus.

This is my testimony on why I support House Bill 912 and respectfully urge you to vote in favor of it. You would be making a difference in the lives of thousands of students across the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dua Hussain
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