

Mrs. Tehmeena (Tammy) Dar
11802 Piedmont Road,
Clarksburg, MD 20871

March 6th, 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.

As one of the founding principles of our nation; religious freedom is an important factor in the day to day lives of many Americans. Growing up, I remember struggling with the dilemma of religious obligations versus academic requirements. Now, as a parent, I have seen my children go through the same difficulties. In reality, the simple accommodations outlined in HB912 would alleviate a great deal of hardship and guilt for students. Beyond meeting religious obligations, these accommodations would greatly promote cultural awareness, respect and open-mindedness in the general community as well. By acknowledging and making reasonable space for people of faith communities, we create a more welcoming and tolerant society that benefits everyone. The direct benefactors of the bill will feel acceptance and respect and can practice their faith comfortably and without stigma or guilt, and those who see their fellow students pray, fast, skip a day for religious observation will come to appreciate and normalize diversity. By making a little space for some, we benefit all.

I support this bill and respectfully urge you to vote in favor of it. Let Maryland lead the way for this important change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tammy Dar

Severaii1701@gmail.com

919-888-9753