

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



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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