

March 9, 2023

Honorable Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
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 Afrah Mumtaz I am a student at the Community College of Baltimore County. We should all be able to access a welcoming, well-kept space where we can pray. Many students believe that having a prayer room is more effective in their mental health and education.

More students should be free to enroll on campus without worrying about having their beliefs scrutinized. There should be changes made, and it's very unfair that our values and belief should be pushed away because there's no safe place to pray. To me prayer is very important because it fosters a sense of connection and makes me feel more motivated and helps me engage better in class. Islam views prayer as meditation, which is why it is so essential to us.

These are the reasons why I support this bill 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,

Afrah Mumtaz
CAIR Volunteer
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