

Committees: Appropriations

Testimony on: HB295 - University System of Maryland - Student Withdrawal - Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees (Cameron Carden Act of 2023)

Position: Favorable

10, February, 2023

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and the members of the Appropriations Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports HB295 that allows students to safely and efficiently withdraw from universities within Maryland’s educational system under certain extenuating circumstances that pose a threat to the student’s physical or mental well-being.

This winter, my partner of 4 years was effectively kicked out of their family. Their only offense was coming out to their parents in the hope that they would be accepted. What happened instead was that their parents decided not to support their education. My partner had to change their life on a dime; they found a job at a local restaurant to pay for the room they now rent in a house with people they had never met before.

The unfortunate result of this situation is that they are struggling with their mental health, as they are no longer able to afford their living expenses and the cost of college classes. Therefore, they took this semester off to avoid accruing more of this heavy financial burden.

If there was a reimbursement option for students struggling in similar extenuating circumstances, my partner certainly would have tried to take on this semester. Unfortunately, they had to play it safe and prioritize their mental health without even trying to begin classes. This may have been the correct choice for them, but not everyone can have the foresight to make this decision before the semester begins.

Helping my partner through this tough time in their life has shown me that the financial stresses of college can be debilitating, especially for students with extenuating circumstances. Please take my partner’s story into consideration and help out students all throughout the state who are suffering from the financial burdens of higher education.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB295.

Thank you,



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