

Hello,

I'm here to testify in support of HB912. My name is Haris Ansari. I'm currently a Medical Student at the Howard University College of Medicine. I've been a proud resident of this great state for over 2 decades of the 27 years of life. I'm blessed to call Maryland a home, and it has been nothing short of a welcoming and beautiful place for me and my family.

I am a product of the public school system and public university system of this very state. What makes Maryland unique is her care for residents and their needs. I served as the President for the Muslims Student's Association at the University of Maryland, College Park from the years 2017 to 2018 and represented over 1,000 Muslim students on campus. Every year concerns over missing classes, exams or assignments would arise throughout the year due to religious holidays. what were supposed to be religious celebrations and times of happiness became real times of stress for students in trying to receive reasonable accommodations.

Every year, in the month of Ramadan, the Muslim student body would send out a letter to the deans of every college at the University explaining Ramadan and the celebration of Eid. It would be up to the professors then to see if accommodations could be made.

The Muslim students (and this is not limited to Muslim students!) go through this difficulty every single year in this state. Having reasonable accommodations and the ability to make up exams, assignments, or classes missed due to religious holidays, as this bill states, would be instrumental in a healthier, confident, and supported diverse student body.

Again, I wanted to come here today and testify for House Bill 912, and to thank delegate Gabriel Acevero for his support.

Thank you,

Haris Ansari