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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Testimony by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
March 16, 2023

HB1129 – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program – Funding

POSITION: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, thanks Delegate Rosenberg for the sponsorship of HB1129 to provide more funding to the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program. This program allocates matched funding to support nonprofits providing low-income students access to college and university.

Community colleges play a vital role in providing accessible and affordable higher education to students from all walks of life. Some students have difficulty navigating Maryland's current financial aid programs, which can be a barrier to pursuing post-secondary education. We believe that the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Program provides a complement to our efforts to make higher education accessible to all Marylanders.

MACC would like to add a friendly amendment to strengthen the reporting requirement to help us better understand the impact and outcomes. Accountability on the effectiveness of these programs is to the benefit of these organizations and the students they serve. We are interested in the required data being disaggregated by higher education segment.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, our amendment, and all your efforts to meet the needs of the students we serve. MACC asks the Committee to give HB1129 a favorable report with amendments.