

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 Hadeel Aljbour.

I was an online student at Montgomery College. I feel that I had no choice but to be an online student since we didn't have a designated space to pray. Now that I am a mother of four kids, just like any parent in this room, I would do anything to have the best for my kids. Having a clean, safe space to pray is necessary many American Muslim students in order to be able to focus on their education and improving the future of our nation.

Students in our country deserve to not have to choose between their religious holiday and their academic assignments. It is important for our children to have at least 3 excused absences for religious holidays, as well as having alternative accommodations to make up assignments on missed days. There should be changes made to accommodate diverse beliefs and values in a way that doesn't interfere with our education and future. I respectfully encourage you to vote for this bill to help us grow our dreams and build our country.

This is my testimony on 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 my children and thousands of students across the state from all backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hadeel Aljbour
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