

**SB359\_MACC\_FAV\_B Phillips.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV

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**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**

**February 15, 2023**

**SB 359 - Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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On behalf of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, we offer our support for this legislation and thank Senator Guzzone for their sponsorship.

This legislation provides an annual \$10 M appropriation to reimburse Maryland's community college for state-mandated tuition and residency waivers. Tuition waivers at our community colleges have gradually increased over the past decade. In academic year 2020-2021, approximately 10,000 students were provided a waiver at a Maryland community college.

The statutory mandated waivers go to extremely needy populations such as foster care students, unaccompanied homeless youth, students with disabilities, and senior citizens. Helping this population of students is critical to Maryland yet waiving their cost of attendance is not a sustainable policy to provide the types of support services these populations need and deserve.

The current tuition waiver policies force the colleges and students to absorb the educational expenses, which is a model that is contradictory to goal of providing access to these students. With this legislation, we can support these students, with additional services such as interpreters, tutors, and counseling that can supplement their academic goals.

In addition, individuals from the following groups are eligible for in-county or in-state tuition waivers:

- Dually Enrolled Students
- USA Armed Forces or National Guard and their families
- Public school teachers taking a required course
- Children of State or local public safety employees killed in the line of duty, and
- Students enroll in health workforce shortage areas and nursing students may qualify for reimbursement of out-of-county fees

I'm not suggesting that we repeal these waivers, but I am asking that we begin to create sustainable public policy for Maryland's community colleges by creating a \$10 M annual appropriation to reimburse the institutions who are serving these populations of our students.

MACC requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 359.

**SB0359-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 359**

### *Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 15, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 359. This bill would provide state funds for a current unfunded statutory mandate for community colleges to provide in-state and full tuition waivers for specified categories of students.

Counties are proud to support community colleges as they serve as a critical piece of Maryland's higher education infrastructure. However, current law requires community colleges to charge lower in-state tuition – or to fully waive tuition – for students that the State has mandated as eligible for such tuition waivers, without any State funding to support the loss of revenue community colleges are experiencing because of this unfunded mandate.

This has proven burdensome for community colleges and the local governments that support them, as they are often faced with cutting programmatic and operational budgets to make up for the lost revenue caused by the unfunded mandate of State-required in-state and full tuition waivers. Ultimately, the unintended budgetary consequences of this unfunded mandate are significant.

Counties have long sought a solution to this issue and SB 359 would be a good step in the right direction. The bill would, in essence, fund the currently unfunded mandate of in-state tuition by requiring an annual appropriation in the State budget for the Maryland Higher Education Commission of \$10,000,000 from fiscal years 2025 through 2027 to fund State-mandated community college tuition and residency waivers.

Not only would the bill address the current unfunded mandate, but it would also be a strong demonstration of the State's commitment to an equitable distribution of support for community colleges. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 359 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **SB 359 Community College Tuition Residency Waivers**

Uploaded by: Daria Willis

Position: FAV



House Appropriations Committee

Testimony: SB 359 – Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers – Funding

Testimony by: Dr. Daria J. Willis, President, Howard Community College

Position: Support/Favorable

Submitted: February 15, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony about Senate Bill 359. I appreciate Senator Guzzone sponsoring this important bill that would provide fiscal relief to Maryland's community colleges that collectively waive millions of dollars each year in state-mandated tuition and residency waivers.

While the waivers are a commendable effort, the unintended consequence is that they place a financial burden on community colleges, which then must make up their loss in other ways. All too often, the result is increased costs and an impact on other students not covered by waivers. In the fall 2022 semester, 47% of HCC credit students received financial aid, and 52% of those students are at or below the poverty line.

With the Howard Community College (HCC) enrollment standing at nearly 23,000 credit and noncredit students annually, the cost of state-mandated waivers is staggering if you consider every waiver offered. HCC loses approximately \$1.77 million each year from all its tuition and residency waivers combined. This is funding that could be used instead for wraparound services to support students through graduation.

SB 359 would help offset costs of waivers such as those for senior citizens. After removing dual enrollment and employee waivers, 25% of the remaining credit waivers at HCC are used by senior citizens and 85% of noncredit course waivers go to seniors. For fiscal year 2022, the total cost of senior waivers at HCC amounted to more than a quarter-million dollars -- \$256,325 – just for seniors alone.

I commend Senator Guzzone and his Howard County colleague Delegate Feldmark for working diligently over the past few years to pass this bill. They understand that Howard Community College is just one of 16 Maryland community colleges that face the financial burden of tuition and residency waivers year after year. Community colleges must have your financial support to cover the costs of state-mandated waivers.

By supporting community colleges through SB 359, the General Assembly will ensure its community colleges are kept fiscally whole and that residents have the quality, affordable, locally provided higher education that the great State of Maryland deserves.

Please vote favorable for SB 359 to support your community colleges.

# **SB 359 - Community College Tuition and Residency W**

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 15, 2023

To: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 359 - Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding

Dear Chair Guzzone:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 359.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. One of the key components is to remove barriers to health care education through tuition assistance, stipends, loan repayment, and other incentives.

SB 359 provides an important pathway to support access to higher education for qualifying Marylanders by funding tuition waivers and residency waivers. The in-county or in-state tuition waivers are available for students enrolled in an instructional program designated as a health manpower shortage program. Many hospital jobs do not require a four-year degree, making our community college partners an important launching pad into the health care workforce.

Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants, who comprise 39% of the hospital workforce, require a maximum of a two-year degree except for a registered nurse, who can pursue a two-or four-year degree.<sup>1</sup> Other hospital jobs only require a certification, such as a pharmacy technician or patient care technician.

Hospital data show nearly one in five—or 18.9%—of nursing assistant positions are currently vacant.<sup>1</sup> Similar shortages are reported across the care continuum spectrum. SB 359 opens the door to opportunities for Marylanders and has the potential to expand and diversify the health care workforce pipeline.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 359.

For more information, please contact:  
Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst, Government Affairs  
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

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<sup>1</sup> MHA Workforce Survey – January 2023



**Senate Bill 359 february 15 2023.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sandra Kurtinitis

Position: FAV

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**Testimony by Dr. Sandra L. Kurtinitis**

**President of the Community College of Baltimore County**

**February 15, 2023**

**SB 359 – Community Colleges Tuition and Residency Waivers-Funding**

**POSITION: Support**

As President of the Community College of Baltimore County and Chair of the Presidents Council of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), I am pleased and proud to offer testimony in support of SB 359 and to thank Senator Guzzone for his sponsorship.

As president of a community college with an open door mission, I write to support this legislation that would finally begin to address a longstanding funding shortfall based on the significant number of students who receive legislatively mandated tuition waivers at our colleges. As you know, Maryland’s community colleges serve the most vulnerable populations in our state, and each of us holds a longstanding commitment to invite everyone into our classrooms through an “open door” that sits permanently ajar. And when you live your mission—and you love your mission—that is what you do. Nonetheless, unfunded tuition mandates add a significant “unfunded” cost to this commitment.

To use my college as an example, annually CCBC serves just under 4,500 students across the several categories of official waivers. While we welcome these students as we do all students, the financial impact is sizable. Ultimately our goal is indeed to support all students and thus apply the waivers that make it possible for many to attend our community colleges who otherwise might not be able to do so. Nonetheless, after many years of quietly absorbing this cost, we are pleased to see that SB 359 may finally provide some financial redress.

Supporting these populations of students is critical to Maryland, yet waiving their cost of attendance is not easily sustainable if we are to continue to provide the special support services many of these students need and deserve. Waiving tuition does not waive away the cost of educating a student with special needs and to do so at the highest level. These costs are passed onto other students through tuition increases or by underfunding programs and student services.

Currently, Maryland has—by legislation—a series of mandated tuition waiver policies forcing the colleges to simply absorb these uncompensated educational expenses. At CCBC, these mandates amount to \$3M. In a world in which we are looking at every policy or practice through the lens of the needs of the students sitting in our classrooms today, the existing model strains our goal of providing the highest quality support for these students. SB 359 will enable us to better support these students with additional services such as interpreters, tutors, and counseling to supplement their academic goals.

We applaud and support Senator Guzzone for advancing this proposal and for lending both sensitivity and understanding to the delicate balance that exists when serving thousands of students created by unfunded waivers.

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