

March 14, 2023

To: Maryland senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: S. Scott Wrigley, MPCT account holder for Owen Wrigley

My wife and I have two MPCT accounts for our son Owen Wrigley. Owen is scheduled to graduate from high school next year, 2024. We signed our contracts with the state of Maryland in July 2007 and have been paying 320.00 monthly since then, for 16 years. Some years that money could have been used for much more urgent needs but we continued paying holding up our end of the contract, all for Owens future.

When we moved away from Maryland in 2012 we reviewed our MCPT contract and were comforted that Owen's money would continue to accrue earnings and that we could roll over to the MD529 TROWE Price investment plan closer to his graduation.

The MPCT and the MD529 Board have silently and without warning changed the terms of the MPCT trust. Their changes are a breach of Article IX to do no harm. Our contract clearly states that we have the option to a Rollover distribution amount EQUAL to all payments made to MPCT plus or minus 100% of Investment Earnings, and in practice has been calculated and distributed to thousands of policy holders before us for 20 years. Their changes to that Article and the new calculations being used are applying not "100% of Investment Earnings" as written but instead a rate equal to 1 Year Treasury Note minus 1.2% (effectively 0-1%) for all periods before November 2021 and a new language rate of 6% to periods after November 2021.

We need you to compel the MD529 to HONOR their contracts that we all signed and agreed to over the initial 20 years of the program. All 27,000 policy holders are being damaged - only a few thousand of us are probably even aware of the damage they have done. The 529 Board of Directors and 529 staff could easily make the change back to the original contract if they were compelled to do so.

If corrective action is not taken immediately to restore our Article VI rollover benefits with full investment earnings promised.....MPCT should be dissolved entirely for incompetence.

