



**CCBC**

Community College  
of Baltimore County

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of education.*

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February 3, 2023

Dr. Cynthia Bambara  
President  
Allegany College of Maryland  
12401 Willowbrook Road, SE  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Dear Dr. Bambara:

I am writing on behalf of the PTECH programs at the Community College of Baltimore County to support the Western Maryland Delegation's proposed amendments to SB 319 passed in 2017. CCBC feels privileged to participate in an innovative PTECH high school program which blends high school and college academics to enable students to earn both an Associate Degree and a high school diploma upon completion. However, as we move into the fifth year of our program, we recognize several obstacles to completion of this otherwise excellent opportunity provided to students.

By the time students enter year five of the program, they face several barriers caused by the current law that stipulate that their high school cannot award a high school diploma until they finish the Associate Degree. Without a formal diploma, high school graduates are deprived of each of the following benefits:

1. They cannot apply for Federal Financial Aid for college courses not covered by the PTECH program;
2. They cannot meet the minimum number of credit hours to participate in collegiate athletics;
3. They cannot obtain their "learners" permit until they turn 18. Without a high school diploma, they must wait 9 months to obtain the provisional license, thereby sometimes encountering transportation problems for getting to and from the college campus to take their courses.

Therefore, I write to support the proposal from The Western Maryland Delegation to mitigate these barriers. Senator McKay's legislation would ensure that PTECH funding will continue until the Associate Degree is completed, but enabling high schools to release the diploma to these students upon actual high school graduation. This Legislation would eliminate all of the barriers mentioned above.

Page 2  
Dr. Cynthia Bambara  
February 3, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for this legislative revision. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further. I look forward to your response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Kurtinitis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D.  
President

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