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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety,
Transportation, and Environment

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on
Program Open Space/Agricultural
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

Testimony in Favor of SB0142
University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Student Member Grant

Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and member of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 142 to authorize the University System of Maryland (USM) to provide student members of the Board of Regents a grant in their first year of service on the Board in lieu of the tuition waiver currently authorized.

Over the past few years, the General Assembly and this Committee have taken actions to adjust the Board of Regents and our student members of the Board. In 2019 we altered the composition of the Board to include two rather than one student members (SB719) and then during the 2020 session we passed legislation to allow the Board to provide those student members of the Board with a tuition waiver in light of the considerable time and energy required for Board service (SB1022).

This legislation will take further action as the USM has a private donor that is interested in providing a grant to student members of the Board during their service. Without the passage of this legislation, the System would not be able to allow for the use of such a grant.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth".

Sarah Elfreth