

**SB 699 / FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the HGO Committee-

Thank you for your time. I am submitting this testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 699 with amendments. This legislation will ensure that Maryland's state agency hiring policies and higher learning institution admissions are non-discriminatory and evidence based. I know that in Maryland, we always strive to be inclusive and to align policy with the most up-to-date science. This legislation will advance both goals.

- Jenna DeCesaris Butler

Anne Arundel County, Maryland