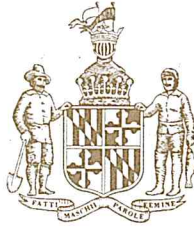


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Chair, Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 263
MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION –
ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 263 is a straightforward piece of legislation that creates a committee within the Maryland Higher Education Commission tasked with finding ways to provide better mental healthcare to college students in Maryland. The committee would be made up of numerous higher education and health care professionals and charged with looking at a myriad of factors contributing to the effective use and distribution of mental health resources.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in the public safety arena, mental healthcare access is an issue that is very important to me. I strongly believe that the establishment of this committee would be a necessary, preventative effort to protect Maryland's college students and to make sure that they get the help that they require. I am confident that this legislation is step in the right direction to provide students the resources that they need to ensure their success when faced with the pressures of starting their adult and professional lives.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 263.