

KAREN R. TOLES, J.D.
Legislative District 25
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittee

Civil Law and Procedure



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 206
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3524 · 301-858-3524
800-492-7122 Ext. 3524
Karen.Toles@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 21, 2023

FAVORABLE: HB680 – Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit Alterations

TO: Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice Chair Jheanelle Wilkins and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 680 is an important bill that will provide financial relief for Marylanders who are burdened with student loan debt. The purpose of this bill is to:

- 1. Double the current tax credit funding from nine million to eighteen million.**
- 2. Set aside five million for those who attended Historically Black Colleges in Maryland.**
- 3. Finally, it would increase the time it gives recipients to pay back their student loan servicer (with the tax credit received) from two years to five years.**

According to the Maryland Higher Education, Marylanders are applying for this fund in record numbers, therefore it is a necessity to increase the available funding so that more Marylanders can take advantage of our student loan debt relief initiative.

Secondly, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been disenfranchised for many years, when it comes to receiving equitable funding, by prioritizing these institutions to receive student loan debt relief it would assist first generation college students and those who need assistance the most.

Finally, increasing the time from two to five years would allow for more time to repay the loan from the tax credits received. Loan repayments start six months post-graduation; however it takes time to find employment, pass licensure exams and other barriers can get in the way to quickly repaying the loan servicer. Therefore, increasing the time to repay the loan from the tax credits is simply the right thing to do.

I ask for your **Favorable Support**. Thank you for time and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Delegate Karen R. Toles

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Toles', written in a cursive style.