



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by
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House Bill 1345 - Higher Education - Harford Community College Board of Trustees
- Alterations

POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Dr. Theresa Felder and I am the President of Harford Community College. Please accept the following as my written testimony in support of House Bill 1345, Higher Education - Harford Community College Board of Trustees – Alterations, sponsored by the Harford County Senators.

For the past several months, I've been working with our Board leadership and members of the Harford County Delegation to update the legislation that guides the appointment of our Trustees. Presently, the College has nine Trustees: Three are at-large appointments and six are mandated to reside in a specific Harford County councilmanic district. The geographic restrictions on appointments can hinder us from finding Trustees who may have subject matter expertise that the College needs to advance its mission. The geographic restrictions have also sometimes delayed the College's appointment of Trustees to vacant positions.

The amendments proposed by the Harford County Delegation allow for greater flexibility in the appointment process by making all of the College's Board seats at-

large. This will allow the College to appoint people with specialized expertise crucial for the College's advancement. The amendments would also further align Harford Community College's appointment process with most other Maryland community colleges, where councilmanic residency is not a prerequisite.

The amendments also correct other minor issues with the current legislation, including:

- Updating the name of the College's Board from "Board of Community College Trustees for Harford County" to the more succinct "Harford Community College Board of Trustees" that we regularly use when referring to the Board.
- Removing the requirement that our College's Board meet semi-annually with the County's school board. For the past several years, these meetings have been more appropriately delegated to the President of Harford Community College and the Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools.
- More directly addresses the need for Trustees to maintain residency in Harford County throughout their tenure.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of these amendments.