

House Appropriations Committee
February 27, 2024

**HB 657 - Public Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students -
Policy**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 657**, which ensures each higher education institution has a policy that supports pregnant or parenting students. The policy would be required to follow the rules set out in Title IX.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, among other statutes. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. One of the lesser-known aspects of Title IX is that it protects the rights of pregnant and parenting students to stay in school and confers a status of "...pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom."

While HB 657 may appear duplicative of the rights enshrined in Title IX, codifying this provision in state law ensures that Maryland's pregnant and parenting students will always have the benefits afforded under Title IX. Maryland's community colleges understand that students' lives and individual circumstances do not stop when they pursue their education. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 657**.

For questions, please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org).