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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee
Vice Chair, Rules Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony
SB 567: Cameron Carden Act 2024

Good afternoon, Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the House Appropriations Committee.

SB 567: Public Institutions of Higher Education – Student Withdrawal Policy – Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees (Cameron Carden Act of 2024) would amend the existing university policies to include a mental health crisis alongside physical injuries for student withdrawal and REFUND.

Currently, students can provide medical documentation to withdraw and receive reimbursement if they are facing a physical health crisis or hospitalization and this legislation will put mental health challenges on equal footing.

We cannot continue to ignore the magnitude of mental health issues and the toll it takes on an individual.

Depression is real, anxiety is real and bullying is no longer just a thing that happens and goes away. More and more young people are committing suicide as of result of bullying. No student should have to choose between getting mental health treatment or losing thousands of dollars for tuition and this is what SB 567 and HB 539 address.

There is an amendment that strikes the word reimbursement and changes it to REFUND and the refund shall only be those fees paid by the student.

Therefore, I ask for a FAVORABLE report as amended for SB 567.