

**SB 0005: Guaranteed Admissions  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Hearing:  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

**FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT Testimony for SB 0005 provided by:**

Miriam Snare

Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I am a certified high school math teacher with two decades of experience working with public school, private school, and homeschooled children in Maryland. I am asking for a FAVORABLE REPORT WITH AMENDMENTS that include a way for homeschooled students to qualify for guaranteed admission along with their public and private school peers.

In 2022, almost 45,000 students were homeschooled across Maryland (according to data from the Johns Hopkins School of Education). That is around the same number of children who attended public school in Frederick County or twice the number of public school students in Washington County in the 2022-2023 school year. Homeschoolers do not have a class rank, since each family typically only has one graduating senior at a time. However, from my work with students across all types of schooling, I can confidently say that the homeschooling community includes many high-achieving students who easily measure up to the top 10% of students in traditional schools. It would be a loss of talent to Maryland's universities if homeschoolers are relegated to a lower priority in admissions due to being left out of guaranteed admissions programs.

Other states, such as Texas and Tennessee, have passed bills similar to SB 0005 in recent years and allow homeschooled students to qualify through their grade-point average (GPA) and/or SAT/ACT scores. Some individual post-secondary institutions, such as Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), also offer a guaranteed admission program based on GPA.

Please amend SB 0005 to give all academically qualified students the opportunity for guaranteed admission to Maryland's state universities.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Snare  
Nottingham, MD