



EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

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Senate Bill 737 - Higher Education - Harford Community College Board of Trustees - Alterations

POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Dr. Rich Streett III and I am the Board Chair for Harford Community College. Please accept the following as my written testimony in support of Senate Bill 737, Higher Education - Harford Community College Board of Trustees – Alterations, sponsored by the Harford County Senators.

At present, Harford Community College has nine Trustees, three of whom are at-large appointments and six who are mandated to reside in a specific Harford County councilmanic district. As written, the geographic restrictions on appointments can hinder the appointment of Trustees who may have subject matter expertise that the College needs to advance its mission. The geographic restrictions have, on several occasions over the past decade, delayed the College's appointment of Trustees to vacant positions.

The amendments proposed by the Harford County Senators allow for greater flexibility in the appointment process by making all of the College's Board seats at-large. This will allow for the appointment of individuals with specialized expertise

crucial for the College's advancement. As a Board, we value and are committed to ensuring that the composition of our board reflects the diversity of Harford County, as well as the College's students and employees.

The amendments also further align Harford Community College's appointment process with that of most other Maryland community colleges, where councilmanic residency is not a prerequisite.

Other minor amendments to the legislation include:

- Streamlining the nomenclature from "Board of Community College Trustees for Harford County" to the more succinct "Harford Community College Board of Trustees."
- Dispensing with the mandatory semi-annual meetings between the College and HCPS Boards. For the past several years, this has been carried out by the President and Superintendent.
- Emphasizing the need for Trustees to maintain residency in Harford County throughout their tenure.

These proposed amendments are pivotal in ensuring that Harford Community College remains agile and adaptable in serving the needs of Harford County. Thank you for your consideration.