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**Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 5: Higher Education – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University,
and St. Mary’s College of Maryland – Guaranteed Admissions**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

January 24, 2024

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on Senate Bill 5: Higher Education – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland – Guaranteed Admissions**

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state’s students. Now that the Blueprint is law, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to implement a framework that sets students up for success within Maryland.

SB5 supports the vision of the Blueprint’s third pillar by ensuring high-achieving Maryland students have access to Maryland’s high-quality public four-year colleges and universities in Maryland. SB5 expands opportunities and removes barriers for Maryland students to pursue college pathways – a study shows that low-income, highly qualified students are more likely to undermatch in college admissions, on average, than their high-income peers¹. Evidence from the study showed that top 10 percent eligibility reduced undermatch with a large effect on highly qualified, low-income students. The proposed legislation makes the college admissions process more equitable, while investing in the state’s workforce. Students who gain admission to the three higher education institutions will build the start of their careers and further community in Maryland enriching the next workforce generation.

SB5 supports the Blueprint’s vision to set the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. We have promised World-Class schools. Let us provide World-Class post-secondary options beyond K-12 education to strengthen the future of our state

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 5.

For more information, contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org

¹ [The American Educational Research Association](#)