

Subject: Favorable HB912 Institutions of Higher Education - Instructor Training - Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

Date: March 5, 2025

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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To: House Appropriations Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Appropriations Committee to vote “favorable” on HB912, a bill that will require all college instructors to receive training about students with disabilities and their need for reasonable accommodations.

As an advocacy organization, the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland receives many requests for help from students each year. College instructors frequently do not grant accommodations for testing, and do not make handouts accessible to blind students. We inform the students how to advocate for themselves, and when necessary, along with the student, we intervene with the department head, or the dean of students. Requiring all instructors to receive training will be a tremendous help for students.

This bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission to create a model training program for the colleges to use. This will allow for a standard of knowledge that all college training programs must have and will be more complete in the subjects covered in this training.

Although this will cost some money, the money will be well spent because it is an investment in the future of Maryland students who will become taxpayers. Please vote in favor of HB912.