

UNFAVORABLE
Senate Bill 879
Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association opposes Senate Bill 879, which would alter the definition of "dually enrolled student" such that students enrolled in nonpublic schools or home schools are eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The Part-Time Grant Program and Early College Access Grant represent laudable efforts to ensure that Maryland students have access to dual enrollment programs, regardless of their family's income. MSEA believes that public funds should support the education and flourishing of students in public schools, not subsidize private entities that do not abide by the standards and regulations set by county boards of education. The proposal in this bill would siphon college access funds from public school students in need, thus undermining this body's commitment to investing in a high-quality, world-class public education system for Maryland students.

We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on Senate Bill 879.