

Mary Nelson  
1465 Blue Ball Rd  
Elkton, MD 21921

March 5, 2025

Brian Feldman, Chair and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Senate Committee,

Requesting a FAVORABLE report from committee members for SB0879

I agree with altering the definition of "dually enrolled student" to include a nonpublic secondary school student and a home school student to be eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant. Whether a student attends a public school, private school or is home-schooled should not be an issue when applying for a grant. Their families all pay the same taxes to support education. They all come under and are required to reach similar educational goals so they should be considered on equal terms for the grants.

Due to the extreme budget deficit Maryland has recently come into, including private and home-schooled students in the available pool of funds currently earmarked for the grants would be prudent. In future years as budgeting permits, the total fund can be increased for all students.

Please vote favorably to grant equal access to grants for all Maryland students.

Sincerely,

Mary Nelson  
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