

Eric Dallavalle

Written Testimony

SB0879 – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students

As a parent of private school students, I became aware over a year ago that public school students were provided the ability to attend community colleges at no cost. This was not only the class taught in the high school but also those taught on the college campus. I was able to testify in front of both the House and Senate subcommittees last year on this bill but unfortunately not able to do so this year. I am aware that after my testimony, in Frederick County, they now have limits on the number of classes students can take at Frederick Community College at no cost to the high school student. I do know this was due to budget constraints and an area they would save money. As a taxpayer in the state of Maryland, I know I made the choice of paying for my children's education when we decided to send them to private school. As a taxpayer, I do not feel as though it is fair that my tax dollars are going to public school students to get part of their college education for free. If the community colleges are in an agreement to provide the reduced cost for public school students, then it should be the same for all students in the county. As things stand right now, I would have my children enroll in colleges outside the State of Maryland instead of providing additional money to our local colleges for classes during high school and then for their actual college enrollment. My family is blessed to have grandparents covering most of my children's private school tuition. I know when many think about private school cost, they think about bigger schools with higher costs. The school my children attend has a cost that is at least 25% less than the last number I saw for the cost per student in Frederick County Public Schools. I do understand that the only way to bring the inequality into equality is higher cost to the state. Maybe we need to go back to when this was not offered as an option in high school. I would be pleased to see all community colleges offering the same discount to all high school students that are residents in their county. Thank you