PAUL D. CORDERMAN Legislative District 2 Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration

February 19, 2025

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee Chair Brian J. Feldman Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 James Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street, Room 403 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3903 · 301-858-3903 800-492-7122 Ext. 3903 Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 597 to you today. Senate Bill 597 will expand eligibility for the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include students attending the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine. This is an important step in ensuring that more Maryland students have access to vital financial assistance when pursuing advanced degrees in critical fields such as osteopathic medicine.

The Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine offers a unique and essential pathway for students seeking careers in healthcare, especially in underserved communities. Expanding the scholarship program to include this institution not only aids in diversifying the healthcare workforce but will also provide crucial support for students pursuing degrees in osteopathic medicine, which are increasingly in demand across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 597.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Corderman District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties

