



Holly Grove Christian School

Excellence in Christ-Centered Academics

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To the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear the voices of the people as you consider expanding the definition of "dually enrolled student" to include nonpublic secondary school and homeschool students. This change would make them eligible to apply for the Part-Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

As Head of School at Holly Grove Christian School in Westover, Maryland, I represent over 100 secondary students who would greatly benefit from inclusion in these programs. Currently, our students do not receive the same tuition reductions as their public-school peers. This means they must pay a discounted rate for collegiate courses—on top of their private school tuition. Since public school students receive full dual enrollment benefits, the question remains: shouldn't all families who pay taxes have access to the same opportunities, regardless of where their child attends school?

Expanding eligibility for these grants would have numerous benefits. Money that families do not have to pay for dual enrollment courses means more money in their pockets which means economic stimulation. The alteration will allow more students the ability to complete courses earlier, getting these students into the workforce faster which will benefit the individual and the economy. Less college debt leaving college leads to greater financial freedom, and accelerating coursework completion helps fill critical job openings in our county and state.

I commend the committee for considering this change. It demonstrates a true commitment to equity and to meeting the needs of all Marylanders. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Christ,

Matthew W. Curtis

Head of School - Holly Grove Christian School