

SEIU Local 500 Testimony on SB 269 - 2025.pdf

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Position: FAV



Testimony - SB 269, Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program -
Revisions
Favorable

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 18, 2025

Christopher C. Cano, MPA

Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairman Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 23,000 workers across Maryland including faculty at our community colleges. Our members have seen first hand the success that students can achieve in their careers by developing their skills and education at our community colleges. We therefore express our strong support for the proposed extension of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program to include students enrolled in noncredit vocational certificates and licensing programs, as well as to provide part-time students with up to six years to complete their associate's degrees and maintain their scholarship eligibility.

Noncredit vocational certificates and licensing programs are crucial in preparing individuals for in-demand careers in industries such as healthcare, technology, manufacturing, and skilled trades. In addition, this will extend to those students in apprenticeship programs. These programs provide practical, hands-on training that leads directly to employment opportunities, and they often require specialized knowledge that is not necessarily offered through traditional degree programs. By extending the Promise Scholarship to these vocational focus programs, we are acknowledging the importance of these pathways and removing financial barriers that may otherwise prevent students from obtaining the skills necessary for a fulfilling and stable career.

Additionally, the proposed extension of the scholarship for part-time students is a much-needed adjustment. Many students, particularly adult learners, parents, or individuals working multiple jobs, may not be able to attend school full-time. The ability to maintain the scholarship for up to six years would allow these students to pursue their educational goals at a manageable pace without the added stress of financial instability. This flexibility would lead to more students graduating, contributing to a skilled workforce, and ensuring that Maryland remains competitive in attracting and retaining talent.

The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship has already proven to be a life-changing program for many students, reducing the financial burden of higher education and opening doors to economic mobility. By expanding the eligibility to cover vocational certificates, apprenticeships, and part-time degree seeking students, we are making the program even more inclusive and effective in supporting a diverse range of learners. These changes will help ensure that all Marylanders have access to the education and skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

We ask you all to support SB 269 and thank Senator Jackson for his leadership on this issue. We urge you to vote yes and provide a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
SEIU Local 500

Promise Scholarship SB 269 2025 Favorable Testimo

Uploaded by: Derrick Coley

Position: FAV



Maryland Higher Education Commission

**Education, Energy and the Environment
Senate Bill 269**

Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program - Revisions

February 19, 2025

1:00 PM

Favorable

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 269. I am Dr. Sanjay Rai, Secretary for the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

Let me begin by thanking Senator Michael A. Jackson for sponsoring Senate Bill 269. This bill is a departmental bill for the Maryland Higher Education Commission, which proposes a few technical amendments to expand college access and affordability for the Promise Scholarship Program.

I fully support Senate Bill 269, the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program. These technical amendments are critical to expanding college access for noncredit seeking students that are enrolled part time. As you know, community college student demographics are ever evolving. The Maryland Higher Education Commission is committed to meeting the challenges faced by students seeking to achieve their educational goals.

In fact, MHEC has already begun the work of expanding college access for part time noncredit seeking students in order to ensure that eligible students can receive up to \$5,000 to cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fee expenses after federal or state financial aid has been applied as a last dollar amount. Maryland's community colleges are fully committed to expanding the financial aid tools available for students.

MHEC intends to utilize the technical amendments to make improvements to the Promise Scholarship Program to increase financial aid for part time noncredit students attending Maryland's community colleges. Senate Bill 269 strengthens the Promise Scholarship Program and is essential to ensuring an equitable distribution of state resources, so that no student is left behind, who is seeking to achieve their educational goals even on part time status.

In closing, I fully support Senate Bill 269 and ask the Committee for a favorable report.

february.fifth.pdf

Uploaded by: February Fifth

Position: FAV

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By February Fifth, Lecturer II (Adjunct Prof)
SB0269
State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty
February 20, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

This is a test submission.

Sincerely,

February Fifth, Lecturer II (Adjunct Prof)
Home Campus:
7901 Regents Drive, College Park, MD 20740
252025test@umd.edu

This testimony has been submitted on behalf of this individual by the United Academics of Maryland-University of Maryland (UAM-UMD). Please send us an email if you have any questions: umdaaup@gmail.com

SB269 Support (Written).pdf

Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 269: Maryland Community Colleges Promise Scholarship Program – Revisions**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Support

February 19, 2025

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public school system where all students have access to post college and career readiness pathways through Pillar 3. As such, **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 269**, which seeks to adjust the duration for which a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship recipient can retain their award under certain circumstances.

Currently, recipients of the scholarship can only receive the award for a fixed period. This structure fails to account for students who pursue different educational tracks and alternative pathways to their career. SB269 provides a much-needed adjustment by:

- Extending eligibility to up to three years for students enrolled in a noncredit vocational certificate, licensure, certification, apprenticeship courses, or a certificate at a community college; and
- Extending eligibility up to six years for part-time students pursuing an associate degree at a community college.

The Blueprint recognizes that there are a multitude of unique paths that students can take post graduation. The bill aligns the provisions of this scholarship program with the Blueprint by aiming to support students who might be taking alternative pathways to pursue their career goals.

The changes proposed in this bill would strengthen the program by extending eligibility timelines and providing flexibility for students. As a result, Senate Bill 269 is a step towards ensuring that Marylanders can access and complete their postsecondary pathways without undue financial and administrative burdens.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 269.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

SB269_MSEA_Lamb_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 269

Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program – Revisions

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 19, 2025

Lauren Lamb
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 269, which would extend eligibility for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program from 3 years to 6 years for a candidate in a part-time Associate's degree program.

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).

We firmly believe that all Marylanders should have the opportunity to continue developing their skills and earning credentials, regardless of their life stage or circumstances. The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program makes community college education more affordable and accessible, and extending it to students working part time toward an associate's degree is a common-sense update that aligns with the spirit of the scholarship program.

We urge the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 269.

sb269test - Maryland Community College Promise Sch

Uploaded by: Marcus Jackson

Position: FAV



**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

The Voice of Merit Construction

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February 19, 2025

TO: EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: S.B. 269 – MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - REVISIONS
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support S.B. 269 which is before you today for consideration. The legislation proposes revisions to the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program. This bill represents a crucial step in ensuring the program's effectiveness and accessibility for all Maryland students.

The current program, while well-intentioned, can inadvertently penalize students who pursue their associate's degrees part-time due to circumstances such as work, family obligations, or other personal challenges. The existing three-year time limit for award eligibility can be particularly burdensome for these students, potentially forcing them to forgo their education or incur significant debt.

S.B. 269's proposed amendment to Section 18-3604(c), extending the award eligibility timeframe to six years for part-time students pursuing associate's degrees, is a vital correction. This change acknowledges the diverse paths students take towards higher education and provides a more realistic and supportive framework for their success. It recognizes that part-time students often face unique obstacles and require additional time to complete their studies.

By allowing students up to six years to complete their associate's degree while maintaining scholarship support, S.B. 269 promotes greater equity and opportunity. It empowers part-time students to pursue their educational goals without the added pressure of a restrictive time limit, ultimately increasing their chances of graduation and contributing to Maryland's workforce.

Furthermore, the bill's retention of the provisions regarding satisfactory academic progress and continued eligibility requirements ensures that the scholarship funds are used responsibly and effectively.

This modest yet significant revision will strengthen the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program, making it a more effective tool for expanding access to higher education and fostering a more skilled and prosperous Maryland.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on S.B. 269.

Marcus Jackson, Director of
Government Affairs



SB269Testimony2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Procurement

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 269

***MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - REVISIONS***

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 269 is a very straightforward bill that chiefly alters the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program to allow part-time associate's degree students to receive the scholarship for up to six years, as opposed to the current three year maximum. The legislation also clarifies that students participating in registered apprenticeship programs may receive the award for up to three years as well.

The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is a valuable tool to initiate gap-filling economic resources for individuals pursuing their academic goals. This legislation is simply a means to the end of providing these scholarship recipients greater flexibility in achieving those goals.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 269.

the.second.pdf

Uploaded by: The Second

Position: FAV

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By The Second, Associate Clinical Professor University of Maryland
SB0269
State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty
February 20, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

This is a test submission.

Sincerely,

The Second, Associate Clinical Professor University of Maryland
Home Campus: University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, College Park
7901 Regents Drive, College Park, MD 20740
252025test2@umd.edu

This testimony has been submitted on behalf of this individual by the United Academics of Maryland-University of Maryland (UAM-UMD). Please send us an email if you have any questions: umdaaup@gmail.com