

**HB 0725: Public Schools – Institutions of Higher Education –
Dually Enrolled Students – Alterations
Ways and Means
Hearing: Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS Testimony for HB 0725 provided by:
Miriam Snare

Honorable Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am a homeschooling parent. My older child took advantage of the Early College Access Program at the Community College of Baltimore County during his junior and senior year of high school. Successful completion of courses at CCBC was a critical element of my son's applications to 4-year universities as it demonstrated that he was ready for post-secondary learning and some of the credits he earned transferred to the college he now attends. Therefore, I am in favor of increasing homeschoolers' access to dual enrollment programs.

I ask for the text of HB 0725 to be amended in reference to "home school". There seems to be a fundamental lack of understanding that homeschoolers in Maryland are not one coherent entity, as evidenced by the statement that "every 2 years, a ... HOME school and a public institution of higher education may evaluate and modify an agreement." Does that mean that every individual homeschooling family with a dually-enrolled child has to negotiate their tuition cost? Or what entity does this bill task with speaking for all homeschoolers in Maryland to set the tuition cost for our children? When my son attended CCBC, the college offered a 50% tuition rebate for all high school students. As a homeschooling family, we paid the remaining tuition and fees for my child's courses without any funding or involvement from Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dual enrollment courses are vital to the academic goals of many homeschooled students in the last few years of high school. So, I am in favor of making those classes more accessible to a greater number of families. However, the language in the bill needs to be aligned to the homeschooling realities in Maryland. Therefore, I once again ask for a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on bill HB 0725.

Sincerely,
Miriam Snare
Nottingham, MD