



11400 Robinwood Drive • Hagerstown, Maryland 21742-6590 • 240-500-2000

Office of the President

Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled Students– House Bill 725

Ways & Means Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**Testimony in Support of the Bill Submitted by
Dr. James Klauber**

I write to ask you to pass this legislation to see that all students are covered by the dual credit benefits provided in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, not just those enrolled in a public school. At Hagerstown Community College, we have seen dual credit enrollments soar with the advent of the Blueprint. However, students who attend a private school or a homeschool are left out. Washington County has a significant percentage of its homeschool population who are refugees from southwest Asian countries. These families, who largely homeschool through their Islamic Community Center, do not have the means to pay tuition for dual credit opportunities. They must wait until they complete high school prior to the triggering of Pell eligibility. This should not be the case in Maryland.

The Blueprint envisioned a world class level of education for all Marylanders. This bill seeks to close the gap that adversely affects those who homeschool or choose a private school. The actual numbers of students is fairly low, and would not create an adverse burden on the local education agency. As we work to close the equity gap in our county and state, this would be a meaningful step forward in that direction.

We hope that you will give this bill favorable consideration. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

James S. Klauber, PhD
President