



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

March 3, 2026

SUPPORT – HB0818 - Higher Education - Foster Care Recipients and Homeless Youth - Tuition Exemption and Associated Benefits

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **HB0818 - Higher Education - Foster Care Recipients and Homeless Youth - Tuition Exemption and Associated Benefits** to require higher education institutions to provide room and board, required books, course materials, supplies, and equipment to foster care and homeless youth who qualify for tuition exemption.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland work in low income neighborhoods to address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We regularly work with foster youth in our programs and see the barriers foster youth experience accessing higher education. Requiring higher education institutes to provide additional benefits like room and board and required materials will allow for more youth to be eligible for higher education which increases their opportunities for a successful future life.

We urge you to support SUPPORT – HB0818 - Higher Education - Foster Care Recipients and Homeless Youth - Tuition Exemption and Associated Benefits to provide more benefits to foster care and homeless youth to access higher education.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair