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Education, Energy, and
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Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The House Appropriations Committee

**SB 486 – Higher Education – Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship
Program – Eligible Institutions**

Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the distinguished House Appropriations Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 486 – Higher Education – Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program – Eligible Institutions and ask for a favorable report. The House crossfile, House Bill 1075 sponsored by House Appropriations Education Subcommittee Chair Delegate Stephanie Smith, unanimously passed the House on March 18.

This legislation would expand eligibility for the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include individuals attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore enrolled in one of the following degree programs:

1. Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies;
2. Doctor of Pharmacy;
3. Doctor of Physical Therapy; or
4. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

For reference, the Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission provides financial assistance to degree-seeking graduate and professional students.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is a historically black, land-grant degree and research institution on the Eastern Shore. SB 486 recognizes the critical role UMES plays in training the next generation of health care and forthcoming veterinary professionals in Maryland.

I'd also like to highlight that SB 486 would help address the critical workforce shortage of primary care and specialty providers on the Eastern Shore by increasing opportunities for career advancement through the UMES health care and veterinary professional schools.

This legislation is supported by UMES, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Maryland Pharmacists Association.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 486.