

SB 212/HB 003: Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (**Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act**): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to express my strong support for **SB 212/HB 003**, the *Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act*.

This compassionate legislation provides a meaningful benefit to the families of our state and local public safety employees — including law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and correctional officers — who make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Specifically, it exempts the spouses and financially dependent children of these fallen heroes from paying nonresident tuition rates at Maryland public institutions of higher education when they otherwise would not qualify as residents.

Public safety professionals put their lives on the line every day to protect Maryland communities. When they die in the performance of their duties, their surviving spouses and dependent children should not face the additional financial burden of out-of-state tuition rates while pursuing higher education in the state their loved one served and died to protect. This bill is a small but significant way to honor their sacrifice and support the families left behind.

The measure is narrowly tailored, fiscally responsible, and sends a clear message that Maryland stands with the families of our fallen heroes. It builds on existing tuition benefits programs and provides a fair, targeted form of recognition for those who have given everything in service to the public. This is the right thing to do for the families who have lost so much.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 212/HB 003** and vote in favor of its final passage.

Thank you for your time and dutiful consideration of my viewpoint on this important education tuition legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals