

House Appropriations Committee

April 8, 2026

SB 212 - Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports SB 212. This bill provides an important form of educational support to the financially dependent children of State and local public safety employees who lose their lives in the line of duty by ensuring that residency status does not become a barrier to attending a public institution of higher education in Maryland.

Maryland's community colleges serve students from families that have made profound sacrifices in service to their communities and the State. For these students, access to affordable higher education can be critical to their ability to persist in school and achieve long-term educational and economic stability after the loss of a parent. SB 212 recognizes that these families should not face additional challenges solely because of where they live when they seek to enroll.

By establishing a clear and consistent policy for this small, specific group of students, SB 212 reflects Maryland's commitment to honoring public safety service and supporting surviving family members in meaningful ways. This approach ensures that students who have already experienced an extraordinary loss can pursue higher education on equal footing with their peers.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 212**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.