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February 10, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair,  
Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 538 - Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Informed Enrollment Act), sponsored by Delegate Wolek. This legislation represents a critical step forward in ensuring transparency and financial literacy for students and families navigating the complexities of higher education in Maryland.

HB 538 would require Maryland colleges and universities to prominently display a link to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard on their prospective student websites. By providing direct access to this federal resource, the bill ensures that students have clear, comparable, and data-driven information regarding essential outcomes, including:

- **Cost of Attendance:** Helping families plan for the true financial commitment of a degree.
- **Graduation Rates:** Providing a clear picture of institutional success in supporting students through completion.
- **Salary Outcomes:** Offering realistic expectations for post-graduation earnings.
- **Debt Outcomes:** Highlighting the potential financial burden students may face upon graduation.

Choosing a college is one of the most significant financial decisions a person will ever make. This bill would empower Maryland students to make "informed" decisions by mandating that this data be shared not just on websites, but also during recruitment events, orientations, and through academic advising. Furthermore, the bill is pragmatically designed by allowing institutions to use the existing data provided by the federal College Scorecard resource.

Transparency in higher education outcomes is essential for student success and the long-term economic health of our state. I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 538.

Yours in Service,

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.  
Secretary  
Maryland Higher Education Commission

**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**