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**House Appropriations Committee**

February 24, 2026

**HB 214 – Higher Education - Academic Forgiveness Policy - Established****Position: Favorable with Amendments**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 214** with amendments. MACC appreciates the intent of this legislation to remove barriers for adult learners and returning students seeking to reengage with higher education after time away. Maryland's community colleges strongly support policies that expand access, promote second chances, and help students return to complete credentials that lead to meaningful employment and economic mobility.

Maryland's community colleges operate under an open-admissions model and already serve students regardless of prior academic performance. As open-access institutions, community colleges do not use selective admissions processes in the same way as four-year institutions. Students seeking to return to education after a period away can enroll without prior academic performance serving as a barrier to entry. Accordingly, the requirement to disregard prior grades during the admissions process would not meaningfully change access for community college students and would instead create additional administrative requirements where the underlying issue does not exist.

For these reasons, MACC respectfully requests an amendment to remove community colleges from the scope of HB 214 while preserving the bill's intent for institutions where admissions selectivity may pose barriers to returning students. Maryland's community colleges remain committed to supporting adult learners and students returning to higher education and look forward to continued collaboration with the sponsor and the General Assembly to expand access and support student success. For these reasons, MACC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT** report on **HB 214**.

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