

SB 534/HB 839: Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training Requirements: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to express my strong support for **SB 534/HB 839**.

This legislation promotes good governance and public trust by establishing reasonable, common-sense standards for the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees:

- It requires the Board to provide an opportunity for **public comment** at each of its meetings.
- It mandates that meetings be **recorded** (video or audio) and that those recordings be maintained in perpetuity for public access.
- It requires each member of the Board to complete **board governance training** at least once every two years.

These requirements are modest, low-cost, and fully aligned with best practices for public bodies. Allowing public comment increases community engagement and accountability. Recording meetings and preserving them ensures transparency so that residents, students, faculty, and taxpayers can review decisions that affect Frederick Community College. Regular governance training helps trustees better understand their fiduciary responsibilities, ethics, open meeting laws, and effective board practices.

Frederick Community College is an important public institution serving students and the broader community. Its Board of Trustees manages significant resources and makes decisions that impact education quality, budgets, and workforce development. Strengthening transparency and trustee preparedness benefits everyone without imposing undue burdens. This is a positive, non-controversial step toward better governance at our community colleges.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 534/HB 839** and vote in favor of its final passage.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my perspective regarding this important higher education legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals