



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

March 3, 2026

SUPPORT – HB0982 - Higher Education - Tuition Exemption for Foster Care Recipients - Eligibility

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **HB0982 - Higher Education - Tuition Exemption for Foster Care Recipients - Eligibility** to lower the age of the definition of a foster care recipient from 13 to 8 years old. This will expand access to higher education to more foster youth.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland work in low income neighborhoods to address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We regularly work with foster youth in our programs and see the barriers foster youth experience accessing higher education. Lowering the age from 13 to 8 years for the definition of a foster care recipient will allow for more youth to be eligible for higher education which increases their opportunities for a successful future life.

We urge you to support SUPPORT – HB0982 - Higher Education - Tuition Exemption for Foster Care Recipients - Eligibility to expand the definition of foster care recipients for more of them to access tuition exemption.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair