

**HB 538 FAV MHEC.pdf**

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Position: FAV



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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**

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# **HB538 Testimony 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tisa Silver Canady

Position: FAV

February 6, 2026

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

I am Dr. Tisa Silver Canady, Founder and Executive Director of the Maryland Center for Collegiate Financial Wellness.

The heart of our mission is to help Marylanders make informed decisions about higher education and how to pay for it.

From extensive work with current and former students, I can wholeheartedly say: students and families need a better understanding of the costs and benefits of higher education. Having a better understanding can give them a better chance to make more informed decisions and achieve a better return on their investment.

Determining “ROI” begins with estimates, and there are plenty of on- and off-campus sources of information to help with the calculation.

At MCCFW, we refer Marylanders directly to each institution’s websites for details on admissions and financial aid processes, costs, and sources of funding. We also direct them to federal and state government resources such as the College Scorecard, College Navigator, and MHEC. The presentation of information varies by institution and by agency, and sometimes the presentation varies across units within the same institution or agency. This often creates a frustrating experience especially for first-generation students and others who are navigating the higher education selection process without support.

HB538 requires institutions to share existing information in a deliberate, coordinated fashion throughout the campus ecosystem. The bill refers to the Cost of Attendance, graduation rates, salary outcomes, and debt outcomes, all of which financial aid professionals know well due to federal reporting requirements. Having a state level requirement will ensure that this information remains available with the added benefit of prominent positioning for students to reach with relative ease.

In closing, HB538 provides schools with:

1. Ample time to enhance existing communications and
2. The opportunity to encourage informed decision making and financial preparedness for one of the most significant financial decisions of a lifetime.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask that you issue a favorable report on HB538.

Respectfully submitted,

Tisa Silver Canady, EdD, MBA  
Founder and Executive Director  
Maryland Center for Collegiate Financial Wellness

**HB0538\_MACC\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FWA

**House Appropriations Committee**

February 10, 2026

**HB 538 – Institutions of Higher Education – Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Information Enrollment Act)**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, supports the goal of transparency and providing students with clear, accessible information to help inform decisions about affordability, educational pathways, and career outcomes. Accurate public data is critical to ensuring that students and families can make informed choices about how to invest in their academic and professional futures.

HB 538 requires institutions that admit first-time undergraduate students to provide information on costs, graduation rates, salary outcomes, and debt outcomes. While these measures are intended to support transparency, MACC has concerns about applying these metrics uniformly to community colleges without sufficient context.

In particular, the bill ties institutional success to outcome metrics that do not fully align with the mission of open-access institutions and does not adequately account for equity considerations or student intent. For community colleges, this creates a risk that publicly reported data will be interpreted as a measure of institutional quality without recognizing that many students enroll to transfer, earn short-term workforce credentials, or pursue industry-recognized certifications rather than complete a degree at their starting institution.

Maryland’s community colleges have a strong public mission centered on access and opportunity, serving students who have historically been excluded from postsecondary education. MACC believes transparency is most effective when outcome data is presented in a way that reflects the full range of student pathways and avoids misleading comparisons between institutions with fundamentally different missions and student populations. While MACC supports providing students with meaningful and accurate information, the approach in HB 538 would benefit from greater flexibility and context to ensure that transparency efforts enhance, rather than distort, public understanding of community college outcomes. MACC looks forward to working with the sponsor and the Committee on refining this approach so that transparency requirements provide meaningful, contextualized information that supports informed student decision-making at community colleges.

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