

Marquez Ball
8606 Wendy St. Clinton, MD. 20735

January 26, 2025

Re: Support of SB0208 -Higher Education - Religious Educational Institutions -
Certificate of Approval

Dear Chairman Feldman and Senate Committee Members:

First, thank you for your service to the Maryland public on policy and legal issues that impact us the most, especially on matters of education, energy and the environment.

I am writing in support of SB0208, a bill to permit religious institutions that received an exemption from the Maryland Higher Education Commission before January 1, 2013 when the state legislature changed the requirements for **religious exempt institutions who are accredited. The change nullified religious exemption for accredited institutions and required the institutions to seek state certification.**

As an alumni of Maple Springs Baptist Bible College & Seminary, a religious institution that initially received its Maryland state certification as a religious institution on October 20, 1989, Maple Springs has afforded me to obtain my Bachelors degree in 2006. I have since used my education to promote the aims and goals of Maple Springs in furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I currently serve as the President at Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary.

Maple Springs has been the only religious institution that provides a great sectarian education at an affordable price. With the rising costs of post-secondary education and increases in the daily cost of living (food and groceries prices for example), having an affordable post-secondary option is refreshing and necessary.

Celebrating its 40th year of existence in 2025, Maple Springs wants to continue its great tradition by operating as originally certified by the state.

Please support SB0208 by voting favorably out of this Committee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marquez Ball,
President & C.E.O