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Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
SB 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship
Eligibility – Delmar High School Graduates
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and my fellow members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship and ask for a favorable report.

SB 728 would allow students from Delmar, Maryland who attend and graduate from Delmar High School to be eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. The Delmar school district has two physical locations: Delmar Elementary School is in Delmar, Maryland and Delmar Middle and Senior High School, home of the Wildcats and Field Hockey State Champions for nine consecutive years, is in Delmar, Delaware. These Delmar, Maryland students are Maryland residents, yet as their local high school building is physically located in Delmar, Delaware, they are currently prevented from accessing the Promise Scholarship.

The Town of Delmar lies half in Maryland, and half in Delaware, as the state line runs down the middle of State Street. The town is named after the first syllables of Delaware and Maryland, Delmar, highlighting its bi-state culture. I am proud to represent a town with these unique circumstances which can sometimes lead to unique issues like this bill intends to address.

Currently, Delaware residents who graduate from Delmar High School are eligible to receive the Inspire Scholarship, which funds four years of full tuition at Delaware State University or the SEED Scholarship which funds up to ten semesters to complete programs through Delaware Technical Community College. Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School – estimated at 61 out of 161 for the 2026 graduating class and 77 out of 181 for the 2027 graduating class – are faced with the difficulty of funding their post-secondary education without the resources available to their Delaware peers.

The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship for students who enroll at a Maryland community college. Eligible students can receive up to \$5,000 to cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fee expenses **after** Federal or State financial aid has been applied. This Scholarship lowers financial barriers to earning workforce relevant credentials, increase first year college enrollment, and help students enter high demand local fields with marketable skills. Maryland Delmar High School students should **not** be denied eligibility and

opportunities to benefit from the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship due to the physical location of their high school located in Delmar, Delaware.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and swift report on SB 728.