



Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 445:

For-Profit Institutions of Higher Education and Private Career Schools - Instructional Spending - Requirements

TO: Hon. Paul Pinsky, Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Christopher Dews, Policy Advocate

DATE: February 12th, 2020

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates for policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. JOTF supports Senate Bill 445 which will require for-profit schools to spend at least fifty percent of their tuition revenue on instruction or reduce how much they charge students in tuition to meet the amount spent on instruction.

Education is vital to upward employment mobility in the State of Maryland. Wide swaths of diverse citizens attend college every year in the hopes that a degree will give them access to fulfilling, sustainable employment. Most fiscally advantageous positions require either a skilled trade or a degree to break into the industry. JOTF supports the drive for upward mobility but it is rapidly being uncovered that certain for-profit schools aren't properly investing in their students.

In Maryland, twenty-four for-profit schools spend less than fifty percent of tuition revenue on instruction. For-profit schools generally spend less on instruction and more on marketing and recruitment.

School spending on instruction and student support plays an important role in students' college completion and career success. Colleges and universities that spend more on instruction are investing in students' success by providing them with more resources, quality advisors, and smaller class sizes.

By requiring for-profit schools to spend at least fifty percent of tuition revenue on instruction, the state of Maryland is ensuring that students attending for-profit schools are receiving a high-quality education.

We hope you take this opportunity to make sure that for-profit schools are investing in Maryland students. We urge you to move favorably on SB 445.