



## Testimony for the House Ways and Means Committee

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### HB 348 – AP Opportunities Act of 2020

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#### FAVORABLE

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The ACLU of Maryland supports HB 348, which would provide Advanced Placement examination fee assistance for students with financial need.

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This bill will provide assistance to students who are enrolled in an approved Advanced Placement (AP) course. Many Marylanders are facing financial hardships and the path to economic stability can be very difficult with having to pay the cost for advancing education. According to the Maryland Report Card 42.3%<sup>1</sup> of Maryland students qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs). It is therefore clear that many Maryland students stand to benefit from the fee assistance provided by this bill.

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While this bill does not eliminate the inequities of the demographics that are found in the Advanced Placement exams, with only 14% of exams taken by Black students and only 14% taken by students that qualify for FARMs,<sup>2</sup> it will allow many Maryland students financial relief.

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For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 348.

DANA VICKERS SHELLEY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/Demographics/Enrollment/3/17/6/99/XXXX>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/02262019/TabK-AdvancedPlacement.pdf>

