

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Mary Clapsaddle  
Director, State Affairs

DATE: March 10, 2020

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine is pleased to offer testimony in support of **House Bill 1585 – Economic Development – Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Program – Extension and Alterations**. This program has proven, over its five years of existence, to be invaluable to attracting and supporting high achieving researchers and faculty to campuses across the state. Johns Hopkins is proud of the eight professorships that have been approved since fiscal 2016 – projects where \$8.5 million in state funds have leveraged and been more-than-matched by \$12.3 million in donor funds.

The women and men who hold endowed professorships at Johns Hopkins conduct some of our most significant research. They attract the very best students, who come here in order to work with scientists who are acknowledged leaders in their fields. These are the faculty members who bring prestige and honor to the Johns Hopkins name. Their work makes this a great university, and their ability to chart new courses of research and patient care comes in no small part from the reliable support of an endowed chair.

The Wilmer Eye Institute, which has been awarded three E-Nnovation awards, is often referred to as the jewel in the crown of Johns Hopkins Medicine. The generosity of its supporters and the caliber of its faculty allow Wilmer to serve as a model for other departments of ophthalmology throughout the world. With the support of the state's matching funds, we have three endowed professors and their research teams exploring causes and treatments of age-related macular degeneration.

We urge a favorable report to extend the term of this program, and to increase the funding, either through this dedicated revenue source on electronic tip jars or with a general fund supplement. Further, clarifying the time requirement for time spent in the private business partner to 20% (rather than one day per week) better tracks with the academic calendar. Finally, highly recruited faculty typically require start-up packages, through which the university commits to support the costs of post-docs and research fellows for a specified period of time. Allowing these funds to be used for salaries related to the work of the endowed professor will make the entire package more attractive in recruiting and retaining these high achievers.

For these reasons, Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable committee report on House Bill 1585**.

cc: Members, House Ways and Means Committee  
Delegate Ben Barnes