

# KIPP:Forward

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

To members of the Maryland House of Representatives:

I am writing on behalf of KIPP Baltimore to advocate and support HB 1030 outlining changes to the award timeline for the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

I have worked in Maryland with college enrolled students for 7 years. In that time our organization has supported many students who receive funding from MHEC. This program has been instrumental in giving Maryland students access to higher education, while also providing a sustainable financial pathway to graduation.

This funding is critical for students to persist in college and achieve their higher education aspirations. Our organization, KIPP Baltimore, is supportive of the earlier award date of April 15th but we recommend that this bill require that all eligible Guaranteed Access Grant (GA) students are awarded, and funds held in reserve for GA applicants who submit their verification documents by the current deadline of April 15. The change in award date should not penalize any GA applicant. As the program currently stands, the GA and Educational Assistance Grant (EA) are awarded out of the same fund, this change in the award deadline should not impact the amount of GA grants that are awarded due to the constrained timeline.

We believe that notifying EA students earlier of their award status is helpful and important for students in considering their best financial fit college, therefore our organization supports HB1030 with the proper amendments listed above.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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