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Ways and Means Committee
Education Subcommittee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1030 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Procedures - Alterations
Hearing: March 1st, 2022

Chairman McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

HB1030 will require the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to follow certain alterations to its current procedures. The MHEC was established in an effort to ensure that Maryland residents have access to the benefits of higher education. In order to enrich their lives and to advance their contributions to civic life, economic development, and social progress of the state of Maryland. This is done by hearing our students' need and desire for high quality, accessible and affordable higher education.

The first aspect of this bill will require the MHEC to make each open meeting of the Commission available to the public through live video streaming, as well as, maintain a publicly available archive of unedited video recordings of these meetings for a minimum of 5 years after the date of the meeting. This will provide transparency between the Commission and Maryland residents which will allow for students to stay informed and involved in the planning and coordination of Maryland's postsecondary education system.

The second aspect of this bill will require the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Commission to notify each student of the Office's decision regarding the student's application for a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award on or before April 15th of each year.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote favorably on HB1030

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie Smith