



Maryland Education Coalition



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Date: March 1, 2022

BILL: [HB1030](#)

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Maryland Higher Education Commission – Procedures – Alterations

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) Supports HB1030 - Maryland Higher Education Commission – Procedures – Alterations, the provisions outlined in House Bill 1030 represent clear steps towards making the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) a more transparent, fair, and equitable organization. By using digital tools and capacities that have become commonplace in other institutions across the state government, the commission will engender public trust.

Video streaming is one of the many ways that technology can aid democratic processes by ensuring private citizens and media personnel have greater access to monitor the functions of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Additionally, the proposal to sustain access to the video recordings for a period of time ensure that private citizens who may not be available during a MHEC meeting will be able to view meetings at their convenience.

Furthermore, the bill requires that students and their families receive notification of their award status. Ensuring that students have feedback regarding the status of their scholarship is an important contribution to families' decision-making processes. It is essential to not only notify legislators regarding scholarship awards but even more importantly the students who applied along with their families.

The Delegate Howard P Rawlings Educational Award, has long recognized the academic achievements of students that demonstrate both educational excellence and financial need. With respect to House Bill 1030, the proposed alterations would further improve the transparency of the MHEC's scholarship program by making the nature of their financial award clear to applicants. Though seemingly minor, these changes stand to improve the commission's legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) is the oldest, largest, most experienced, and diverse group of public education stakeholders in Maryland. We are an independent, non-partisan voice for Maryland's K-12 students. MEC's goal is to ensure adequate, equitable funding and systemic accountability for the estimated 900,000 public school students in Maryland regardless of academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. MEC is committed to advocating for state education policies that deliver on the constitutional right and civil right for all students to access a high-quality, competitive education.

For these and other reasons, support HB1030 and urge a favorable report.

American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Shanetta Martin, Sharon Rubinstein, Rick Tyler, Jr.