



Dear Chair Pinsky and members of the EHE committee,

The St. Mary's County NAACP stands in favor of SB79. We support fixing the existing law to allow senatorial scholarship recipients to use scholarship funds for out-of-state institutions if there are no comparable in-state accredited institutions. According to the fiscal note that was drafted for last year's version of SB79,

"A senatorial scholarship may be used at an out-of-state institution if the out-of-state institution makes special provisions for a hearing-impaired student if comparable special provisions are not available to that student at a Maryland institution or if the out-of-state institution offers a program that is not offered at an institution in Maryland and other specified conditions are met. Current law and regulations do not specify that an in-state program must be accredited by a national accrediting association approved by the U.S. Department of Education."

This loophole does not serve St. Mary's County students nor does it serve the students of our great state. We request the committee submit a favorable report on SB79. Thank you

[Fiscal Note](#)

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