

HB390_MACC_FAV_B Phillips.pdf

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Position: FAV

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Testimony by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

February 7, 2023

HB 390 - Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding

POSITION: Support

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, we offer our support for this legislation and thank Delegate Feldmark for her sponsorship.

This legislation provides an annual \$10 M appropriation to reimburse Maryland's community college for state-mandated tuition and residency waivers. Tuition waivers at our community colleges have gradually increased over the past decade. In academic year 2020-2021, approximately 10,000 students were provided a waiver at a Maryland community college.

The statutory mandated waivers go to extremely needy populations such as; foster care students, unaccompanied homeless youth, students with disabilities, and senior citizens. Helping this population of students is critical to Maryland yet waiving their cost of attendance is not a sustainable policy to provide the types of support services these populations need and deserve.

The current tuition waiver policies force the colleges and students to absorb the educational expenses, which is a model that is contradictory to goal of providing access to these students. With this legislation, we can support these students, with additional services such as interpreters, tutors, and counseling that can supplement their academic goals.

In addition, individuals from the following groups are eligible for in-county or in-state tuition waivers:

- Dually Enrolled Students
- USA Armed Forces or National Guard and their families
- Public school teachers taking a required course
- Children of State or local public safety employees killed in the line of duty, and
- Students enroll in health workforce shortage areas and nursing students may qualify for reimbursement of out-of-county fees

I'm not suggesting that we repeal these waivers, but I am asking that we begin to create sustainable public policy for Maryland's community colleges by creating a \$10 M annual appropriation to reimburse the institutions who are serving these populations of our students.

MACC requests a favorable report on House Bill 1102.

HB0390-APP_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



House Bill 390

Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: February 7, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 390. This bill would provide state funds for a current unfunded statutory mandate for community colleges to provide in-state and full tuition waivers for specified categories of students.

Counties are proud to support community colleges as they serve as a critical piece of Maryland's higher education infrastructure. However, current law requires community colleges to charge lower in-state tuition – or to fully waive tuition – for students that the State has mandated as eligible for such tuition waivers, without any State funding to support the loss of revenue community colleges are experiencing because of this unfunded mandate.

This has proven burdensome for community colleges and the local governments that support them, as they are often faced with cutting programmatic and operational budgets to make up for the lost revenue caused by the unfunded mandate of State-required in-state and full tuition waivers. Ultimately, the unintended budgetary consequences of this unfunded mandate are significant.

Counties have long sought a solution to this issue and HB 390 would be a good step in the right direction. The bill would, in essence, fund the currently unfunded mandate of in-state tuition by requiring an annual appropriation in the State budget for the Maryland Higher Education Commission of \$10,000,000 from fiscal years 2025 through 2027 to fund State-mandated community college tuition and residency waivers.

Not only would the bill address the current unfunded mandate, but it would also be a strong demonstration of the State's commitment to an equitable distribution of support for community colleges. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 390 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB 390 Community College Tuition Residency Waivers

Uploaded by: Daria Willis

Position: FAV



House Appropriations Committee

Testimony: HB 390 – Higher Education – Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers – Funding

Testimony Submitted by: Dr. Daria J. Willis, President, Howard Community College

Position: Support/Favorable

Submitted: February 3, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony about House Bill 390. I appreciate Delegate Feldmark's leadership and the support of other delegates to provide fiscal relief to Maryland's community colleges who collectively waive millions of dollars each year in state-mandated tuition waivers and residency waivers.

While the waivers represent a commendable effort to assist various categories of students, the unintended consequence is that there is a fiscal impact on other students. With an enrollment of credit and noncredit students now close to 23,000 annually at Howard Community College (HCC), the cost of state-mandated waivers is staggering if you consider every waiver offered. HCC loses approximately \$1 million each year from tuition waivers.

HB 390 would provide some financial assistance to help offset the costs that burden community colleges and impact non-waiver students. One of the most costly waivers at HCC is the tuition waiver for senior citizens taking credit courses. The cost at HCC for fiscal year 2021 was \$254,000. Offering this benefit is a noble cause, but it has an impact on other students for whom every tuition dollar is a stretch. In the fall 2022 semester, 47% of HCC credit students received financial aid, and 52% of those students are at or below the poverty line.

This bill is an important step forward in reducing the fiscal burden of state-mandated waivers. It would cover the cost of many – but not all – of those waivers.

I commend Delegate Feldmark on working diligently to pass this bill. She and her co-sponsors from Howard County and around the state understand that community colleges must have financial support to cover the costs of state mandates waivers. By supporting community colleges through HB 390, the General Assembly will ensure its residents have quality, affordable, locally provided higher education to build an even better future for the great State of Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and for your continued support of community colleges.

HB 390- Community College Tuition and Residency Wa

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 7, 2023

To: The Honorable Benjamin Barnes, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 390 - Community College Tuition and Residency Waivers - Funding

Dear Chair Barnes:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 390.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. One of the key components is to remove barriers to health care education through tuition assistance, stipends, loan repayment, and other incentives.

HB 390 provides an important pathway to support access to higher education for qualifying Marylanders by funding tuition waivers and residency waivers. The in-county or in-state tuition waivers are available for students enrolled in an instructional program designated as a health manpower shortage program. Many hospital jobs do not require a four-year degree, making our community college partners an important launching pad into the health care workforce.

Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants, who comprise 39% of the hospital workforce, require a maximum of a two-year degree except for a registered nurse, who can pursue a two-or four-year degree.¹ Other hospital jobs only require a certification, such as a pharmacy technician or patient care technician.

Hospital data show nearly one in five—or 18.9%—of nursing assistant positions are currently vacant.¹ Similar shortages are reported across the care continuum spectrum. HB 390 opens the door to opportunities for Marylanders and has the potential to expand and diversify the health care workforce pipeline.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 390.

For more information, please contact:
Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst, Government Affairs
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

¹ MHA Workforce Survey – January 2023

HB 390 Testamony by Sandra Kurtinitis for February

Uploaded by: Sandra Kurtinitis

Position: FAV

House Appropriations Committee

Testimony by Dr. Sandra L. Kurtinitis

President of the Community College of Baltimore County

February 7, 2023

HB 390 – Community Colleges Tuition and Residency Waivers-Funding

POSITION: Support

As President of the Community College of Baltimore County serving as Chair of the Presidents Council of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), I am pleased and proud to offer testimony in support of HB 390 and to thank Delegate Feldmark for her sponsorship.

As president of a community college with an open door mission, I write to support this legislation that would finally begin to address a longstanding funding shortfall based on the significant number of students who receive legislatively mandated tuition waivers at our colleges. As you know, Maryland's community colleges serve the most vulnerable populations in our state, and each of us holds a longstanding commitment to invite everyone into our classrooms through an "open door" that sits permanently ajar. And when you live your mission—and you love your mission—that is what you do. Nonetheless, unfunded tuition mandates add a significant "unfunded" cost to this commitment.

To use my college as an example, annually CCBC serves just under 3,000 students across the several categories of official waivers. While we welcome these students as we do all students, the financial impact is sizable. Ultimately our goal is indeed to support all students and thus apply the waivers that make it possible for many to attend our community colleges who otherwise might not be able to do so. Nonetheless, after many years of quietly absorbing this cost, we are pleased to see that HB390 may finally provide some financial redress.

Supporting these populations of students is critical to Maryland, yet waiving their cost of attendance is not easily sustainable if we are to continue to provide the special support services many of these students need and deserve. Waiving tuition does not waive away the cost of educating a student with special needs and to do so at the highest level. These costs are passed onto other students through tuition increases or by underfunding programs and student services.

Currently, Maryland has—by legislation—a series of mandated tuition waiver policies forcing the colleges to simply absorb these uncompensated educational expenses. At CCBC, these mandates amount to \$3M. In a world in which we are looking at every policy or practice through the lens of the needs of the students sitting in our classrooms today, the existing model strains our goal of providing the highest quality access to these students. HB390 will enable us to better support these students with additional services such as interpreters, tutors, and counseling to supplement their academic goals.

We applaud and support Delegate Feldmark for advancing this proposal and for lending both sensitivity and understanding to the delicate balance that exists when serving thousands of students created by unfunded waivers.

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