

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF HOUSE BILL 1290
Higher Education - Maryland 529 Program – Reform
Before the House Appropriates Committee
By Larry Klapper
March 21, 2023

Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support with amendment of House Bill 1290. I urge you to please amend House Bill 1290 to continue the Maryland Prepaid College Trust instead of ending it. This is a critical program that makes tuition affordable for middle class parents. I sent both of my children to St Mary's College of Maryland thanks to this program, and recently invested in a year of tuition for my grandson. This program was a Godsend for us. I don't see how we would have been able to afford college for our kids without this. Because of this plan they were able to graduate college without the staggering debt that so many kids face. I was planning to invest in another semester this month, and hoped to invest more in the future. Please fix the Maryland Prepaid College Trust, but do not end it. I urge a favorable report with amendment for HB 1290.