

Honorable Delegate Smith,

I am an employee of the State of Maryland and enrolled in the Maryland Certified Public Manager® Program at the University of Baltimore Schaefer Center for Public Policy. I am providing this testimony as a student, and not on the behalf of the agency where I am employed.

I was initially accepted into the program several years ago. I could not attend at that time due to the program's cost and the lack of a method to receive educational reimbursement. I applied again when I found that I could obtain a scholarship to cover the program's cost funded by a one-time appropriation from the Maryland General Assembly.

This program is valuable in providing me with the tools to be a better manager for my employer and to assist other managers with the knowledge I have gained. Additionally, my agency recently changed my job description and duties so I can apply my improved skills and expertise to several projects that need to be completed. This program is so valuable that every agency and local government in Maryland would benefit by having managers trained in it. The cost of the continued funding is meager compared to the benefit to Maryland and local jurisdictions.

Permanent funding of this program will enable the continuation of scholarships to the [Maryland Certified Public Manager® program](#) for public managers across Maryland, provide paid public service internships University of Baltimore students through the [NextGen Leaders for Public Service program](#), and support for public policy research that results in improved decision making in public agencies.

I hope this bill is passed and the funding will remain permanent.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gross
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