

**Testimony for the House Ways and Means Committee
March 13, 2013**

HB 928 – Community Colleges – Dually Enrolled Students – Tuition Waiver

SUPPORT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland supports this proposed law because it extends in-state tuition benefits to members of the original population the DREAM Act intended to capture.

In 2011, the General Assembly passed the DREAM Act, which provided in-state tuition benefits to certain qualifying honorably discharged veterans and to certain immigrants. The Act was petitioned to referendum, and Marylanders voted in favor of upholding it. The purpose of the DREAM Act was to provide in-state tuition benefits to undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, provided they and their parents met certain additional criteria.¹ Dually-enrolled students are an integral part of this population: there are no discernible differences between them and the college students who currently qualify for in-state tuition benefits under the Act. They are among the intended beneficiaries of the DREAM Act, and its failure to explicitly account for them appears to be an oversight.

That oversight may very easily be corrected. This proposed bill represents a simple legislative fix, and we urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

¹ See Maryland Code § 15-106.8.