



Help fix our Tuition Waiver for Unaccompanied Homeless & Foster Youth

Who Qualifies?

- **Current foster youth & some former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth; and**
- **Under 25 years old, and**
- **Obtained high school diploma or GED**

What does it provide?

- **Up to 5 years of free tuition** at a public, state institution in Maryland
- Includes all costs, charges and fees associated with enrollment in credit and non-credit courses for:
 - **Bachelor's degree**
 - **Associates degree**
 - **Vocational Certificate**

During the 2016 Legislative Session, in an attempt to fix some of the glitches in the tuition waiver statute, the new language added to the bill **inadvertently excluded foster youth who are under 18**. While it doesn't happen often, some foster youth graduate high school or get their GED when they're 17 and without this legislation they will remain ineligible to utilize the tuition waiver until they turn 18.

It is also important to clarify that the **tuition waiver covers both credit and non-credit courses**. Every year in Maryland, after taking placement tests, nearly 60% of first-year community college students discover that they must take remedial courses in English or mathematics, which do not earn college credits. Two four year colleges in Maryland, have reported that over 90% of their first year students are requiring remedial course work. Research has shown that even larger percentages of foster youth are required to take remedial courses in math and/or English compared with non-foster youth. Therefore, it's critical that we remove this barrier that some foster youth have faced when enrolling in remedial classes.

For more information or to sign as a co-sponsor, please call Senator Craig Zucker at (410) 841-3625 or Melissa Rock, Child Welfare Director, Advocates for Children and Youth at (202) 460-1219.

