



# ACTA

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

## Board of Directors

Mark Ridenour, Chairman  
John W. Altman  
Janice Rogers Brown  
Heidi Ganahl  
Reuben Jeffery III  
Paul S. Levy  
Judith Messina  
Michael B. Poliakoff  
Karrin Taylor Robson  
Stuart Taylor, Jr.  
Stephen Joel Trachtenberg  
Edwin D. Williamson

Anne D. Neal  
*Senior Fellow*

Joshua T. Katz  
*Scholar-in-Residence*

Solveig Gold  
*Senior Fellow in Education & Society*

## Council of Scholars

George E. Andrews  
*Pennsylvania State University*

Mark Bauerlein  
*Emory University*

Marc Zvi Brettler  
*Duke University*

William Cook  
*SUNY–Geneseo*

Paul Davies  
*William & Mary*

David C. Doughty, Jr.  
*Christopher Newport University*

Niall Ferguson  
*Stanford University*

Allen C. Guelzo  
*Princeton University*

Sidney L. Gulick III  
*University of Maryland*

Robert “KC” Johnson  
*CUNY–Brooklyn College*

Anatoly M. Khazanov  
*University of Wisconsin*

Alan Charles Kors  
*University of Pennsylvania*

Jon D. Levenson  
*Harvard Divinity School*

Molly Levine  
*Howard University*

George R. Lucas, Jr.  
*U.S. Naval Academy*

Matthew A. Malkan  
*UCLA*

Michael Podgursky  
*University of Missouri*

James A. Sellers  
*University of Minnesota–Duluth*

## Anna Sillers, Data Analyst Fellow

### American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA)

### Proponent Testimony on Maryland Senate Bill 713

### Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment

March 5, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Feldman. My name is Anna Sillers and I am the Data Analyst Fellow with the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, or ACTA. I am here today to urge you to vote for Senate Bill 713.

By way of background, ACTA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to preserving academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability at four-year public and private colleges and universities across the U.S. Since 1995, ACTA has worked with more than 23,000 higher education trustees across the country to ensure that students receive an intellectually rich, high-quality college education at an affordable price. At ACTA, I manage the website [HowCollegesSpendMoney.com](http://HowCollegesSpendMoney.com) which provides data on spending, tuition and graduation rates as well as other data points, including some that would be a part of the Informed Enrollment Act.

The United States currently has more than \$1.7 trillion in student debt, and yet the average public school four-year graduation rate is less than 40 percent. One way to both bring down the debt level and improve graduation rates is to ensure students and their families have accessible and up-to-date information when choosing where to attend college. Tuition costs, graduation rates and career outcome data can help students feel empowered when making the important decision of where to apply to and attend college.

Additionally, by managing [HowCollegesSpendMoney.com](http://HowCollegesSpendMoney.com), I have seen first-hand that once trustees are aware of how their university’s spending rates compare to that of their peer institutions, they feel pressured to do better for their schools and communities.

Again, I urge the committee to vote for SB 713 and I thank you for your time and the opportunity to appear before you today. I am happy to answer any questions.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM & EXCELLENCE

1730 M Street NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20036  
T 202. 467.6787 • F (202) 867-6784 | [info@GoACTA.org](mailto:info@GoACTA.org) • [GoACTA.org](http://GoACTA.org)