Attorney General Frosh’s Statement on the Closure of Brightwood College

BALTIMORE, MD (December 6, 2018) – Statement from Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh:

“The closure of Brightwood College’s three Maryland campuses is distressing and saddening because of the harmful effect this has on hundreds of Maryland students. The continuing harm to students of for-profit colleges shows the need for the U.S. Department of Education to change course and start protecting students.”

Brightwood has three campuses in Maryland—Towson, Beltsville, and Baltimore. Students who are currently attending Brightwood College or withdrew within 120 days of the closure should be aware of their options.

1. Students may be eligible for cancellation of federal student loans used to attend Brightwood College, with any amounts already paid on those loans reimbursed to them. This relief, called a “Closed School Discharge,” is available to students who are actively enrolled at a school when it closes, or who withdrew up to 120 days before the school closed and did not complete their program of study elsewhere. If students wish to obtain a Closed School Discharge, they should be aware that they would not be able to transfer their credits in order to finish their degrees at another school (see #2, below). Students should carefully consider their options and personal finances before transferring their credits or applying for a Closed School Discharge. For some people, having their loans discharged may be preferable to continuing their programs of study elsewhere while remaining obligated to repay the student loan debt accrued at Brightwood College. Students whose loans are discharged have the option of pursuing a new degree at another institution, some of which are less expensive, such as state schools or community colleges. The Maryland Higher Education Commission will have more information about how to apply for a Closed School Discharge on its website.

2. Students may be eligible to transfer their credits to another school and finish their degree or certificate program. Students who transfer are not eligible for the Closed School Discharge and would have to pay for any additional courses required by the new school to complete the program. Students may contact schools directly to see if the school will accept credits earned at Brightwood College, or they may check with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, which is in the process of determining whether any
schools in Maryland will accept transfer credits from students who attended Brightwood College.

3. Students may be eligible for reimbursement of money other than federal loans or grants that they paid to Brightwood College for tuition and other expenses. The Maryland Higher Education Commission will have more information about how to apply for these refunds on its website.