



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 423: Community Colleges- State Funding - Revision

Dear Chair McIntosh,

I commend Delegate Feldmark for sponsoring House Bill 423, which would allow for a better accounting of State support of our community colleges and the 300,000 students they serve each year. Since the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula was enacted in 1996, the State has made a formal commitment to our community colleges that they would receive fair and proportional funding to ensure predictable operational support and affordable tuition for their students.

As County Executive, a proud parent of a community college student, and a former community college educator, with a doctorate in education, I understand the power of education provides critical pathways to advancement. I am proud of the work that Howard Community College-one of the best colleges in our nation- has been able to achieve to create a highly skilled workforce. In 2019, Howard Community College received the prestigious *Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award*, which measures organizational success and performance excellence. This presidential-level honor highlights the critical services our college provides our community. Increased graduation rates, expanded opportunities for economic mobility, and empowering learners of all ages and background creates a significant return on investment for our county and therefore, the state.

In FY 2020, my Administration allocated \$35.8 million to Howard Community College, a 2.5 percent increase of the previous fiscal year, which included adequate support to provide for 12 new instructional positions and capital investments. With the assistance of a State match, Howard County provided \$1.4 million to initiate the design phase of a new mathematics and athletic complex to meet growing enrollment needs and community demand.

Our community colleges are not only the most affordable options for our students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a competitive workforce, they are the most democratizing educational entities which help people from all backgrounds achieve their hopes and dreams, while becoming even more productive word citizens. Maryland's 16 community colleges will be better positioned to meet this mission through continued State support by fully funding the Cade Funding Formula and ultimately benefiting not just every student in our institutions of higher learning, but also their families, their communities, and our future.

I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on HB 423.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive