



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive  
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051

January 27, 2021

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

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 173: Community Colleges- State Funding - Revision

Dear Chair McIntosh,

I commend Delegate Feldmark for sponsoring House Bill 173, which would allow for a better accounting of State support of our community colleges and the 108,300 students they serve as of Fall 2020. 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.

Often in times of uncertain economic times, our community colleges become a refuge for students and parents seeking more affordable options for higher education. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our investment in our two-year institutions are that much more critical.

As County Executive and a former educator, 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 the 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 therefor, the state.

In FY 2021, my Administration allocated \$36.5 million to Howard Community College, a 2 percent increase of the previous fiscal year, which included adequate support to provide for 3 new full-time faculty positions and an associate financial aid director to help the growing number of students in need. And with the assistance of a State match, the County provided \$5.4 million to complete the design phase and start construction of a new mathematics and athletic complex to meet growing enrollment needs and community demand.

Our community colleges are the most affordable options for our students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a competitive workforce, keeping Maryland open for business. 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 every student in our institutions of higher learning. I welcome your support and urge a favorable report on HB 173.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive