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BILL NO.: **HB 475**

TITLE: Community Colleges – Students With Disabilities

SPONSOR: Delegate Cain

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 11, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 475 – Community Colleges – Students With Disabilities. This bill would require the Maryland Higher Education Commission to consult with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges when establishing a review process, guidelines, and regulations for a grant program for supplemental services and support for students with disabilities. Additionally, the proposed legislation would mandate that the Governor set aside \$2.5 billion dollars to fund these services.

Unfortunately, students with disabilities still struggle with barriers to higher education. While many young people with disabilities want to go to college and possess the academic ability to do so, they often struggle in college for a variety of reasons. HB 475’s grant program and funding gives these students the hand up they need when entering into higher education.

The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) currently spends nearly \$1 million dollars on providing special assistance for students with disabilities. This legislation means that the CCBC will be able to adequately fund the supports that these students need. As a former educator, County Executive Olszewski understands the necessity of investing in young people—something that HB 475 does for an often-overlooked group.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 475. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.