



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**Appropriations Committee**  
**HB 475: Community Colleges - Students With Disabilities**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**Position: Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that works to improve policies, programs and services that support people with developmental disabilities and their families in our communities. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. From that perspective, the DD Council supports HB 475 **because it will fund services and supports needed to expand access to higher education for individuals with disabilities.**

### **WHY is this legislation important?**

- **Adequate services and supports are essential to academic success**
- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act does not provide educational supports in post-secondary education. Yet, students with disabilities in college still need supports, such as education coaches, assistive technology, and tutors to learn and succeed.**
- **Access to employment that pays livable wages and provides full benefits is often just beyond the reach of those without a college degree or program certificate.**
- **People with disabilities need access to higher education to help ensure that they are fully included in a competitive jobs market. Community colleges are the gateway to those jobs.**

### **WHAT does this legislation do?**

- **Requires an additional \$2.5 million be appropriated for the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide grant funds for supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities in community colleges.**

The benefits of a college experience for students with disabilities are tremendous, providing academic, psychological, and social benefits. **The additional funding required by HB 475 is essential so people with disabilities maintain independence, meaningfully participate in all aspects of higher education, and enjoy equal access to great jobs with good benefits and livable wages.**

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