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BILL NO.: **SB 608**

TITLE: Community Colleges – State Funding - Revision

SPONSOR: Senator King

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 19, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 608 – Community Colleges – State Funding - Revision. Under this proposed legislation, appropriations calculated under the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula and appropriations for the Baltimore City Community College would require that a portion of the funds be designated for the general operation of four-year public institutions of higher education in the State.

This supportive adjustment would provide much-needed support to Baltimore County’s higher education institutions. Guaranteeing that a certain portion of funds are granted to these institutions every year is an indication of investment not just in the buildings and books, but in the individuals who work and learn there. Additionally, strong higher education facilities often serve as the hub to economic and cultural centers within the community.

As an alumnus of both Goucher College and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), County Executive Olszewski has seen the positive impact of Baltimore County’s higher education facilities firsthand. UMBC is home to the first university research park in Maryland, and Goucher College was recognized as a top producer of Fulbright scholars in 2018. SB 608 will allow these institutions to continue to thrive.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 608. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.