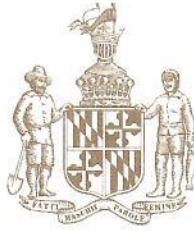


NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3686 • 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686
Fax 301-858-3670 • 410-841-3670
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Senate Bill 610 – Community Colleges –
Supplemental Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities Grant Program**

February 12, 2020

Mister Chairman and Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

In 2006 the Legislature passed a bill which created a Grant Program for Community Colleges to be used for supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities. This grant program was designed to help Community Colleges with the cost of services that are provided to students with disabilities. Some of these services include:

- Sign Language Interpreters
- Readers or conversion of printed materials to Braille
- Tutors
- Note Takers
- Software for students with disabilities

In addition, there are costs for staffing and supporting the Disabilities Offices in each Community College.

In 2017 there were 7,837 students with disabilities attending Maryland Community Colleges. The cost for those services was \$5.4 million. The grant that was established to cover these costs has not been funded since fiscal year 2009 and the amount funded in that year was \$199,000.

Senate Bill 610 will require, that beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, the Governor must include an appropriation of at least \$2,500,000 to the Higher Education Commission in order to fund the Grant Program for Supplemental Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities in Community Colleges. While this amount will cover less than half of the cost of services, it will provide our Community Colleges with some relief for the expenses related to these important services that are required by law.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 610.