



Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**Testimony Opposing SB493
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021**

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March 3, 2021**

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget submitted by Governor Hogan included the required full funding of the community college CADE formula. However, the Governor simultaneously proposed rescinding nearly two-thirds of that increase in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2021. To fully appreciate the impact of *this* year's action requires consideration of the state funding decisions made with respect to community colleges over the last decade. This year's BRFA comes on the heels of flat FY2021 community college state funding, marking the eighth time since 2009 that community college state funding has been rebased. The net effect of these actions has been the loss of over \$140 million in state aid to Maryland community colleges over that time period.

I respectfully request that the provisions in Senate Bill 493 reducing community college funding in FY2022 be defeated. Maryland's community colleges are already dealing with the serious impacts of the COVID pandemic, which have led to enrollment declines and budget challenges for all of the state's community colleges. This is a time when our community colleges – which provide broad access to post-secondary education and skills training, especially important as we begin to come out of this health crisis – need to be able to count on the state to appropriately fund our missions.

While the reduction in FY2022 funding is concerning, the provision of the BRFA that would tie future funding to growth in state revenue estimates is alarming. The CADE formula – which ties community college funding to the per-student funding at selected four-year institutions – doesn't just provide a strategy for equitable state aid to community colleges. CADE also supports necessary long-term fiscal planning by the community colleges, which would be lost in this BRFA proposal.

Community colleges have understood the need to share in the fiscal belt-tightening required in the state over the past decade. And we've done our part, as the eight rebasings of the CADE formula clearly illustrate. I hope the committee will acknowledge the prior fiscal sacrifices and address the compelling funding needs of community colleges by removing the budget reductions to community colleges and the elimination of the CADE formula currently included in SB493.

Thank you in advance for this opportunity to share my perspective on SB493.