



Cecil College
HB 0427-Higher Education-Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program-Alterations

House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Dr. Mary Way Bolt, President
Cecil College
January 26, 2024

Position: Support

Thank you for accepting testimony on the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program-Alterations which will provide equitable funding for each community college on an annual schedule. The Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program (CCFRGP) within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) provides grants for improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects at the sixteen (16) community colleges, including Baltimore City Community College. The funds are to supplement any funds that community colleges provide in their respective budgets to accomplish facilities renewal projects.

The award of the State facilities renewal funds has provided Cecil College the opportunity to effectively address aging infrastructure. The grants provided a means to meaningfully engage in projects that were previously deferred and/or identified as a need during facilities and systems assessments. Some of our projects included building roof replacements and Variable Air Volume replacements within our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems.

However, the current funding implementation is challenged and poses a lack of equity among the colleges. The current program provides funding to eight of the sixteen community colleges on an annual basis but the funding varies significantly due to the tie to the formula whereby there is an appropriation in the budget equal to 5% of the appropriation to the Community College Construction Grant Program in the same fiscal year.

By supporting alterations in this bill, you are supporting community colleges. Marylanders will continue to have access to well-maintained facilities. Please support the amendment to annually appropriate in the operating or capital budget of MHEC an amount equal to 10% of the appropriation to the community college construction grant program in the same fiscal year to each community college. We know that Maryland's community colleges are a good investment for the State. Annually, thousands of students and their families access our courses, programs and events through our physical facilities.

I urge you to support the amendments to this bill and provide a budget for each community college to invest in the renewal of their facilities on an annual basis. Thank you for your support and your efforts to improve Maryland community colleges.

Office of the President

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