

**DANA JONES**  
*Legislative District 30A*  
Anne Arundel County

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Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

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Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

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Vice Chair, Anne Arundel  
County Delegation



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones**  
**Before the Appropriations Committee**

**In Support of HB 427**  
**Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program - Alterations**  
**February 6th 2024, 1:00 pm**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and my friends on the Appropriations Committee,

I come before you today to introduce HB 427, which will expand the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant to all 16 community colleges and help ensure equitable funding across campuses by increasing the annual appropriation based on the Community College Construction Grant Program from 5% to 10%.

Originally established in 2018, this grant program provides State funds to community colleges for improvement, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects. These funds are used for critical infrastructure projects that our community colleges need. Examples include roof repairs, electrical upgrades, fire alarm systems, structural damage, overdue restroom renovation, and ADA accessibility projects just to name a few. Unfortunately, many of these projects are overdue because of a lack of funds and unequal distributions.

At Anne Arundel County Community College, an incredible institution that serves many in my district, their deferred capital projects are overdue by an average of 2 years. Given their importance, these delays have a significant impact on AACC, but for smaller counties the delay is considerably more detrimental. As many of you know, I was born and raised in Allegany County, and the community college is a crucial center of opportunity for many students. Tragically, the average length of delay for projects at Allegany County Community College is nearly 8 years. This bill will help reduce the delays on these repairs.

Finally, Maryland's community colleges are a critical part of the higher education system, and it's where the majority of students begin their postsecondary education journey. Today, there are 102,662 students enrolled in credit programs, in addition to over 130,000 students in continuing education programs that lead to workforce development. In total, 232,811 students are utilizing the convenient and career appropriate educational opportunities offered. Alongside these students pursuing their education, our community colleges also provide contract training opportunities to approximately 1,000 employers across the state, including apprenticeships to over 12,000 students.

The funding provided under HB 427 is cost-effective, and impacts families and businesses in every jurisdiction of the State. With that, I respectfully request a favorable report on this vital support for our community colleges.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones