



CAROLINE COUNTY  
*you belong here*  
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT  
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT  
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ III, COMMISSIONER  
109 MARKET STREET, ROOM 123  
DENTON, MARYLAND 21629

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President, Maryland State Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne Jones  
Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
121 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson, Speaker Jones, Chair Barnes, and Chair Guzzone:

As representatives of the rural community of Caroline County, we write to you with pressing concern regarding the proposed dramatic, permanent cuts to state community college funding. These cuts would deeply impact our county residents, who represent over twenty-four percent of the matriculated students at Chesapeake College.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) have jointly expressed their concerns about these proposed cuts, highlighting the importance of equitable funding for community colleges. We echo their sentiments and urge you to reject these cuts to ensure that our community colleges receive the support they need to continue serving our most vulnerable student populations.

For years, the State has employed formula-rebasing techniques that have resulted in a significant disparity in funding between community colleges and four-year public higher education institutions. This history of imbalance has had a detrimental impact on Maryland's community colleges, leading to underfunding and hindering their ability to adequately support students.

Fully funding the Senator John R. Cade formula is crucial for ensuring equitable access to higher education for all Marylanders. By rebasing this formula, the State effectively prioritizes one segment of higher education over the other, creating further disparities in funding allocation.

Moreover, the proposed cuts would place additional strain on county budgets and lead to tuition increases, exacerbating the financial burden on students at a time when educational opportunities are most needed. As representatives of a rural community facing its own budget constraints, we urge you to consider the detrimental impact that these cuts would have on our residents.

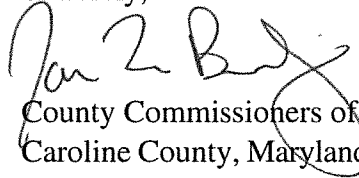
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Katheleen Freeman, County Administrator | Daniel Fox, Deputy Administrator | R. Stewart Barroll, County Attorney  
109 Market Street, Room 123 | Denton, Maryland 21629 | 410.479.0660 | [info@carolinemd.org](mailto:info@carolinemd.org)

Community colleges play a vital role in our state's economic competitiveness by providing workforce training and education opportunities that are tailored to the needs of local employers. These institutions are essential for revitalizing our communities, reducing unemployment, and stimulating economic growth.

Considering these factors, we urge the General Assembly to fully fund community colleges in Fiscal Year 2025 and maintain the same level of support moving forward. By doing so, you will demonstrate the State's commitment to an equitable distribution of resources and ensure that our community colleges can continue to serve our students and communities effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Travis Breeding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

County Commissioners of  
Caroline County, Maryland  
J. Travis Breeding, President

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