

February 15, 2023

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

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

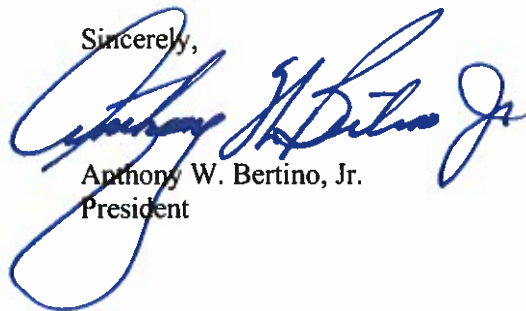
Dear President Ferguson, Speaker Jones, Chair Guzzone, and Chair Barnes:

The Worcester County Commissioners stand with the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges in strenuously urging the General Assembly to reject the proposed dramatic, permanent cuts to state community college funding, known as Cade Funding. For half a century, the programs and services offered through Wor-Wic Community College have transformed the lives of Eastern Shore residents, reshaped the economic landscape of our communities, and fulfilled the ambitions of tens of thousands of graduates intent on developing workforce skills that improve their lives and the lives of their families. Like other community colleges in Maryland, Wor-Wic attracts some of our most vulnerable individuals and families, many of whom are Pell Grant recipients deserving of equitable access to career training and higher education.

Wor-Wic, like other state community colleges, depends on state and local partnerships to maintain affordable programs. The draconian cuts to the Cade formula will result in increased tuition costs, ensuring the training programs that transform lives are outside the grasp of the very individuals these institutions were founded to serve.

We beseech you to fully fund community colleges in FY2025 and preserve the Cade Formula moving forward. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto
Dr. Deb Casey