

Written Testimony Submitted for the Record
to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Feb 29, 2024
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**SB 362– Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act
Unfavorable**

Good afternoon Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. On behalf of the AFT-Maryland, the certified collective bargaining representative for full-time faculty at Montgomery College, Frederick Community College, Howard Community College, and Prince George's Community College, we call for a rejection for the provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act that would permanently and significantly cut state's aid to our state's community colleges.

The proposed cuts, part of the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA), is penny-wise and pound foolish. It would permanently lower the state's contribution to the community colleges by at least 2.5% annually, threatening key programs and positions at our state's two-year institutions. It proposes the state back out of its commitment, known as the Cade Funding Formula, to provide 1/3 of the operating funds per enrolled student.

If the proposed cuts are enacted, the following schools we see significant reductions in state aid for the upcoming fiscal year:

- Community College of Baltimore County: **-\$4.5M**
- Montgomery College: **-\$3M**
- Prince George's Community College: **-\$2M**
- Howard County Community College: **-\$1.4M**
- Cecil Community College: **-\$1M**
- Frederick County Community College: **-\$70K**

Nearly every community college in the state this year had enrollment growth over the previous year, and will play a major role in implementing the plans of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Community Colleges will ramp up dual enrollment programs for 11th and 12th grade students who demonstrate they are career and college ready. Additionally, they will play a role in educating future educators, being institutions where promising candidates for teachers for our public schools may begin their education. It simply does not make sense to cut our community college budgets at this time.

Thank you.