



**Senate Budget and Tax Committee  
Testimony of  
Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
President, Montgomery College**

SB 362 The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024  
**Unfavorable**

Thank you, Chairman Guzzone and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak.

Allow me to especially thank Senators King and Zucker. You are honorary Raptors, for sure!

I know each of you are committed to your community college. Clearly, you believe in our work to open doors to opportunity for Marylanders and deliver homegrown talent for Maryland.

**Today, we ask you to continue that commitment. Please reject the changes to the John R. Cade Community College funding formula outlined in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024, which will negatively impact our work across the State in FY25 and beyond. The reduction of the tie to 26.5% and the elimination of the hold harmless clause are particularly concerning.**

Instead, we ask you to invest in homegrown talent. Nearly 80% of MC alumni stay in Montgomery County. Our alumni work as nurses at Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, engineers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and bio-tech manufacturing associates at GlaxoSmithKline. MC students persist, transfer, and complete their education, then join the workforce and contribute to a stronger Maryland.

We ask you to invest in our students. Enrollment is up! Fall credit enrollment is up 4% from last fall, while enrollment for the spring semester is up 5% over last spring. MC's 40,000 students are a diverse group. The largest cohorts of credit students are Black (25.4%) and Hispanic (29%) students. MC is currently the *only* federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in Maryland.

We ask you to invest in equity! Gone are the days when meeting our mission meant simply having enough excellent faculty to provide access to postsecondary education. Today, programs outside the classroom are as important as what happens inside a classroom to mitigate barriers to success and drive equity, as envisioned in the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013. So, invest in the promise of our students once again as you did when you adopted that landmark legislation.

And please invest in affordability. Students pay their fair share! And too many Marylanders still struggle to afford tuition. More than 60% of MC students attend part-time – often to juggle finances, work, and family. The average household income of a Pell grant recipient at MC is \$28,000, well below Montgomery County's self-sufficient standard. That's why State aid is so crucial. With your continued support the Montgomery College Board of Trustees can continue with our current plan to keep tuition flat next year—for the third time in four years.

Let me close by asking you to invest in excellence. Our faculty and staff are the key to unlocking potential, transforming lives, and delivering the homegrown talent Maryland needs. So please help us provide fair and reasonable compensation adjustments.

Instead of once again debating the Cade formula, invest in your community's college. Let's work together to keep Maryland affordable and strong.