

# ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 29, 2024

## TESTIMONY SB 362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Submitted by:  
Dr. Dawn Lindsay, President  
Anne Arundel Community College Board of Trustees

**Position:** Oppose

I want to thank the chair, vice chair and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB 362. I would like to address the impact that altering the Cade funding formula will have on Anne Arundel Community College, its faculty, staff, and most importantly, its students.

For the past two years, Cade was fully funded. During those two years, enrollment at community colleges has increased. At Anne Arundel Community College, our fall 2023 full-time equivalent (or FTE) enrollment increased 7.8% from fall 2022 and currently, our spring 2024 FTE enrollment is up 7% from last spring. Altering the Cade formula in a time of growth greatly affects our ability to provide support for our students.

Community college students are among the most vulnerable in higher education. While we serve thousands of traditional college-aged students each year, the average age of our students at AACC is 26. Many of these students must juggle work and family obligations in addition to going to school.

We rely on the State as one of our key funding partners, as increases in tuition can directly impact our students' ability to attend college. Providing a high-quality and affordable education also means having the support services in place, which is crucial for student success. Those services include – but are not limited to – advising, tutoring, English Language Learning, health and personal counseling, disability support, basic needs support, service-learning, co-curricular opportunities, and so much more.

I understand the fiscal challenges facing the state. At AACC, we have faced them as well. We allocate 65% of our operating budget toward students, instruction, and academic support. We have conducted reviews of our administrative services, academic portfolio, and resources with an eye toward increasing efficiency while meeting student needs. We continuously reallocate our limited resources with the goal of putting students first by focusing on priorities that support retention and student success.

When the Cade formula is fully funded, the State supports equitable access to higher education for everyone in Maryland. When the State rebases the formula, it creates inequities and prioritizes one segment over the other.

On behalf of the Anne Arundel Community College Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, we respectfully request that you maintain the 29% funding per FTES and reject the language in the BRFA, especially the cuts in perpetuity. Thank you for considering putting students first.