



**Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Testimony of
Dr. Michael A. Brintnall
Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees**

SB 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024
Unfavorable

Thank you to the members of this committee for your support of Maryland's community colleges. You do so because you believe in our mission to meet the needs of Maryland and Marylanders for postsecondary education—to transform lives, to open doors to opportunity, and to deliver homegrown talent to help build a stronger 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 funding in FY25 and beyond. The reduction of the tie to 26.5% and the elimination of the hold harmless clause are particularly concerning.

We ask you to do this because Montgomery College (MC), like community colleges across Maryland, continues to be a worthy investment. Nearly 80% of MC alumni stay in Montgomery County. MC alumni work as nurses at Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, engineers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and manufacturing associates at GlaxoSmithKline. MC students persist, transfer, and complete their education, then join the workforce and contribute to a vibrant Montgomery County. Altogether, MC adds \$1 billion to the economy each year.

Additionally, 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.

The data also tell us that continued investment is warranted to serve our students equitably. Programs outside the classroom are as important as what happens inside a classroom to mitigate barriers to success and drive such 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 this fundamental legislation.

And, finally, still, many students struggle to afford tuition. More than 60% of MC students attend part-time – often to juggle finances, work, and family. 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.

Instead of once again debating the Cade formula, invest in your community's college. Invest in our students and the faculty and staff who serve them. Invest in affordable tuition. Invest in equity. Invest in homegrown talent. Let's work together to fuel Maryland's economy and help Marylanders thrive.