02.28 - SB 362 - Budget Reconciliation and Financi

Uploaded by: Robin McKinney

Position: FAV

SB 362 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support with amendments for Senate Bill 362. Parts of this bill will implement a waitlist for the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program which will reduce the amount of low income families who can use the scholarship. We urge the committee to reject waitlists for CCS and protect this program for low-income families with young children.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than $10,000 annually. More than half earn less than $20,000.**

CASH is the non-profit administer for Baltimore City's guaranteed income program- Baltimore Young Family Success Fund. This program provides $1,000 a month for 24 months to 200 young parents in Baltimore City. Most of our families have 1 or 2 children and most have children under 5 years old. We have heard from our families that childcare is the most impactful financial burden for them after housing. Our participants are struggling with staying connected to the workforce, advancing their education to expand employment opportunities, and simply working enough hours to cover the bills. Finding affordable childcare is essential for our families to be meaningfully employed.

According to United Way, the average cost of childcare for one child in Maryland is $15,403 a year[1]. The average income for families in our program is just over $15,000 with many making less. Paying the average cost for childcare for one child would consume many of our family's entire income. It does not leave space for housing cost, food, medical emergencies, or other essential cost.

Programs like CCS help low-income families have access to quality childcare that benefits the parents and the children. Quality childcare ensures that young children are reaching developmental milestones that will affect the rest of their childhood.

The CCS is a program that protects and supports Maryland families now, while at the same time, investing in low-income children's access to safe, affordable, and valuable childcare.

Thus, we strongly urge the committee to strike page 8 line 25 through page 9 line 23 to protect access to the Child Care Scholarship program.

[1] https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/childcare-cost-burden-for-low-income-households-in-the-us/

575 S. CHARLES STREET SUITE 500 BALTIMORE, MD 21201 TEL: 443-692-9487 FAX: 410-234-8929 CASHMD.ORG

IFDGS 02-26-2024 Letter to Legislators.pdf
Uploaded by: Jacqueline Akinpelu
Position: FWA

February 26, 2024

Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland
Delegate Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Senator Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice-Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Subject: Requested Amendment to Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act – HB352/SB362

Our son Adesola is 39 years old. He has Down syndrome, which primarily affects his cognitive abilities. He is limited in his ability to express himself and to understand what is communicated to him. His reading and writing abilities are at the grade school level. Nevertheless, he has many abilities and interests that have allowed him to live a fulfilled life.

A priority for us is to provide a situation for Ade that will allow him to live as independently as possible when we his parents are no longer here. Toward that goal, Maryland Self-Directed Services has been a godsend. Ade has been able to move into his own apartment, where he receives daily support from his self-directed staff. DDA Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) funding helps our son access services that keep him healthy and productively engaged in his community. In addition, the IFDGS day-to-day administrator supports our son's ability to self-direct, even when we are no longer able to help.

Unfortunately, the 2024 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) proposes to allow DDA to limit the IFDGS funding provided to an individual. We understand that DDA plans to cap annual IFDGS spending at $5,000. This would seriously impair our son's access to community services and threaten his ability to self-direct. In particular, he would no longer be able to hire a day-to-day administrator to provide the needed oversight to ensure that his needs are being adequately met.

We ask you to amend HB352/SB362 by striking Page 20, lines 8-21, which would allow DDA to re-establish a limit on "the dollar amount of individual–directed and family–directed goods and services provided to a recipient."

Thank you!

Akinwale and Jacqueline Akinpelu
12048 Open Run Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
jakinpelu@verizon.net

Cecil Chamber - SB362 BRFA 2024.cleaned_3.pdf
Uploaded by: Jess Solak
Position: FWA

Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Elkton, Maryland
February 28, 2024

<u>**Senate Bill 362**</u> - Budget Reconciliation & Finance Act of 2024

LEGISLATIVE POSITION: Favorable w/Amendment – Restore Cade Formula Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee:

On behalf of the four hundred and fifty Cecil County Chamber members who represent over fifteen thousand employees, we are writing to recommend revision to **SB362** in regard to the recommended funding levels for Maryland Community Colleges.

Our members understand the importance of having a high quality public education system to address the significant learning challenges that confront citizens in the Twenty-First Century. Cecil College is a major component of our local education system, providing qualified individuals the opportunity to earn associate degrees, preparation for success in four-year higher education programs, job training and other life-long learning needs.

Maryland Community Colleges provide access to all qualified citizens who might not otherwise have the resources or other support systems critical for success post high school and throughout their lives. Cecil College serves as the grand equalizer ensuring that every citizen is afforded the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills each requires.

Currently **SB362** includes funding levels that are 2.5% below the amount derived from the application of the Cade Formula. Cecil College stands to lose $1,072,058 below what the Cade Formula indicates.

We respectfully ask that Committee members amend SB362 to reinstate the Cade Funding Formula amount considered necessary for Community Colleges to be fully funded. As a result, Cecil College will receive needed additional fiscal support to continue to fulfill its Mission for Cecil County citizens.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further service to you on this critically important proposed legislation. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee

Executive Director – Megan McRay (410)392-3833
mmcray@cecilchamber.com410-392-3833

FCG Joint letter re CADE Funding, Budget Chairs.pd

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FWA

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Brad W. Young
County Council President

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

February 28, 2024

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

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

Dear Chair Guzzone and Chair Barnes,

As the County Executive and the County Council President of Frederick County, we urge the General Assembly to reject the proposed cuts to Maryland's state community college funding. Community colleges are the cornerstone to higher education in Maryland and they serve many of our most vulnerable student populations. Adequate funding for our community colleges is not only critical for establishing a diverse and skilled workforce, but also an important investment in Maryland's economic development.

State-level funding for Maryland's community colleges is based on a funding formula which aims to provide community colleges with predictable operations support and help maintain affordable tuition rates. The current formula model bases community college funding on a percentage of the appropriation per full-time enrollment student at four-year institutions of higher education.

Unfortunately, there has been a historic imbalance between funding for public four-year institutions and Maryland's community colleges. From 2009 to 2022, the State shortchanged community colleges by over $140 million, further harming Maryland's most vulnerable student population.

Conversely, the State has fulfilled its obligation over the past two years, fully funding Maryland's community colleges for the first time. This is a recognition that our students who enroll in community colleges deserve the same level of support as those who are in public universities.

Here in Frederick County, our emphasis on the importance of community college can be seen and felt through our partnership with Frederick Community College. However, when State funding lags, additional pressure builds on county budgets and student tuition. Frederick County is similarly facing budget constraints, and these cuts will result in tuition increases at a time when training and education opportunities are most needed to address workforce shortages across industries.

Maryland's economic future is dependent on the success of its workforce, and the development of that workforce begins in our local communities. Community colleges are pivotal in uplifting our communities by collaborating with local employers to develop tailored workforce training that equips our residents with the skills and credentials necessary to secure well-paying jobs, reduce unemployment, and stimulate local economic growth.

Maryland's community colleges are graduating more students than ever, and enrollment is up eight percent over last year. Given those successes, combined with the lengthy history of inequitable funding, permanently slashing funding for community colleges is particularly untoward.

Frederick County recognizes that community colleges are critical for helping Marylanders re-enter the workforce and rebuild after the pandemic. We urge the General Assembly to fully fund community colleges in FY 2025 and maintain the same level of support moving forward, demonstrating the State's commitment to all students and to an equitable distribution of resources.

Sincerely,

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Brad Young
County Council President

FCG MICUA Support Letter 2024.02.28.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FWA

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee Chair
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee Chair
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Chairman Barnes,

I am writing to support increased funding for the Sellinger program and the Maryland Independent College and University Association's (MICUA) request to reverse the cuts to this program in the FY 25 proposed budget. Frederick County Government fully supports MICUA's request to:

1. Preserve the legislative integrity of the Sellinger formula, reject the language of the proposed Budget Reconciliation Financing Act (BRFA) and restore the formula to its original methodology.
2. Include a new provision in the BFRA that ensures no single MICUA institution can receive more than 35% of the Sellinger formula allocation in one fiscal year.

The strength of Maryland's higher education system is built on the Sellinger and Cade formulas. These formulas provide consistent investments in Maryland's ecosystem of higher education. No individual sector of higher education can possibly meet all the demands of our economy and the needs of Maryland students, which is why, for 50 years the General Assembly has sought to provide to the independent sector a small portion of the per student funding that is provided to USM institutions through the Sellinger program. Sellinger funds are dedicated to financial aid for Maryland students.

The BRFA cut creates huge funding disparities among the MICUA institutions where some receive drastic reductions (74%, 52%, 46%), eight receive cuts ranging from 10 to 22% and one institution receives nearly the same allotment as the prior year. The MICUA proposal will balance these disparities.

Mount St. Mary's University and Hood College are vital components of Frederick County and spur economic growth throughout our community. Their students are valued members of the Frederick County landscape. These institutions will be negatively affected without these necessary adjustments which MICUA is proposing, which will ultimately hurt students.

I urge you and your committee members to reject the language in the BRFA and adopt the MICUA compromise proposal, which still results in a $26 million cut to the program and a nearly 20% reduction with a more equitable implementation.

Sincerely,

Jessica Fitzwater

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

FCG Support, SHUR Funding.pdf
Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater
Position: FWA

JESSICA FITZWATER

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

POSITION STATEMENT

Additional support to local governments for transportation and fixed-route transit

County Position: Support

As the Frederick County Executive, I urge the Maryland General Assembly to increase funding to local governments for transportation infrastructure and fixed route transit. In particular, the Maryland General Assembly should restore local Highway User Revenues (HUR) allocations to local governments and increase investments in the rural and urbanized area fixed-route transit operations funding.

Local transportation funding continues to lag pre-recession levels and existing demand, despite 83% of our state's road miles falling under the responsibility of local governments. Frederick County is responsible for nearly 1,300 centerline miles of roadway, 222 twenty-foot-plus span bridges, 250 ten to twenty-foot span bridges, and approximately 6,000 culverts. The State has an obligation to fund this public infrastructure and should restore the full local share of Highway User Revenues.

Additionally, Frederick County's comprehensive plan – known as Livable Frederick – depends on stable investments in transit and multimodal transportation. Importantly, the South Frederick Corridor Plan will require investments in our transit system to support expanded services. Transit operations continue to remain under financial strain, and the equivalent local match at increased levels is crucial to effective transit operations at the County level. Access to reliable transportation continues to be a challenge for many County residents, including older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households.

In both the urbanized and rural areas, there is a great need for more transportation options. We are seeking to increase annual operating funding to expand services and provide County residents with more robust transit options. Sustained financial support from MDOT is critical to providing quality transit service in Frederick County. I urge the state to increase the state match to 5311 and 5307 operating funding to help support rural and urbanize transit.

I look forward to working with the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Department of Transportation on all our local transportation needs.

WDC 2024 Testimony_SB362_FINAL.pdf
Uploaded by: JoAnne Koravos
Position: FWA

Senate Bill SB0362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 and FY25 Budget
Budget and Taxation Committee – February 29, 2024
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2024 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC seeks an amendment to the governor's proposed budget for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), specifically related to efforts to increase the family copays and cap enrollment for the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program, putting financial burdens on eligible families who need the scholarship to maintain employment. The current budget calls for a $5 Million decrease in the FY25 Operating Budget Allowance for the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) and a simultaneous addition of a new sliding scale copayment of up to 7% of gross income for families whose income—currently less than 85% of State Median Income (SMI)—qualifies them for the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program. The Governor frames the addition of a copay as essential to program "sustainability."

Rather than assuring program sustainability, we believe that the additional expense of a copay threatens the affordability of childcare for struggling families, the continued employment of working parents and the admirable gains in program participation in prior years. Hence, as the committee considers the BRFA of FY24 and the state budget for FY25, we encourage the committee to both increase the FY25 Operating Budget Allowance for DEC to provide adequate resources for CCS and eliminate the proposed "family share" copays and enrollment freeze for CCS program participants.

We understand that legislators face budgeting challenges in the wake of American Rescue Plan Act funding expiration while working to ensure the fiscal health of the state. However, cutting funding for childcare, limiting access to the program via an enrollment freeze and adding a family copayment will not improve the state's financial future. We believe that a robust economy relies on our ability to grow the state's economy and workforce. The ability of parents of young children to continue to work and pay taxes depends on their ability to access quality, affordable care for their children, as outlined in the Office of the Comptroller's recent report on State of Maryland's Economy.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827 www.womensdemocraticclub.org

Maryland's legislators know that quality Early Care and Education (ECE) increases kindergarten readiness, buttresses families' economic independence, supports the ability of parents to gain and maintain employment, and enables workforce stability. Thanks to legislators' commitments to ECE infrastructure and significant need in the wake of the pandemic, participation in the CCS program has grown. In a January briefing to the Early Childhood Subcommittee, MSDE cited a nearly 75% increase in the CCS program, with more than 40,000 children served by the program, from FY22 to January of 2024, and 20,000 families were able to work as a consequence. Interim State Superintendent Carey Wright also estimated that, despite the extraordinary growth in CCS participation, peak participation numbers represented only 15-25% of those eligible.

This is not the time to cut funding for the CCS program, limit access through enrollment caps, or to burden low-income families with additional expenses that they are not anticipating in their stretched family budgets. Maryland's economy depends on accessible childcare support, and for these reasons **we respectfully ask for the Committee to consider amendments to SB0362 eliminating the copay and enrollment freeze while retaining sufficient state resources for the CCS program.**

Tazeen Ahmad WDC President	Kate Stein WDC Children & Youth Subcommittee	Melissa Bender Co-Chair, WDC Advocacy

SB 362_MD Center on Economic Policy_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Kali Schumitz

Position: FWA

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Full Funding for Child Care Scholarship, Community Colleges Is Vital Our Economy

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 362 With Amendment

Given Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Maryland's investments in affordable access to child care and community colleges represent critical foundations for the state's economic success. Supporting working parents in returning to the workforce and training Marylanders for in-demand jobs are critical for families and businesses alike, as Maryland's record low unemployment rate leaves many businesses struggling to fill open positions. **For these reasons, the Maryland Center on Economic Policy respectfully requests the committee to amend SB 362 to remove changes to the Child Care Scholarship program and the Cade Formula that determines community college funding.**

Families Can't Afford to Wait for Child Care

Child care is critically important for Maryland's families. It enables parents to pursue their careers knowing that their children are in good hands. Yet high costs put child care out of reach for many Marylanders – and this barrier is more prevalent for some than others. Maryland has made significant progress in recent years in expanding access to its child care scholarship program, which is a critical first step in addressing affordability.

As of fall 2020, center-based child care for one child 2-5 years of age cost more than $13,000 per year on average, more than in-state tuition at any University System of Maryland institution. It was all the more costly for parents of infants and 1-year-olds at nearly $18,000 per child.[i] High-quality child care is most out of reach for parents in low-wage jobs. In Maryland, one in seven employed mothers of young children worked in a low-wage occupations.[ii] Structural barriers like pay discrimination put child care even further out of reach for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous parents.[iii] The Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program provides financial assistance for child care costs to eligible working families.

The CCS enables parents to enter and remain in the workforce by subsidizing the high cost of child care. It gives parents and children access to licensed early education programs. This means that parents are able to work in order to provide for the families while at the same ensuring that their children are receiving the care and learning they need at a critical time in childhood development.

Widespread access to high quality child care is also essential for Maryland businesses and the health of our economy. The Office of the Comptroller's 2024 "State of the Economy" report found that rising child care costs are one of the most significant factors preventing women from rejoining the traditional labor force and that Maryland has seen a greater decline in the number of women working or actively seeking work than the national average[iv]. Maryland's lower labor force participation rate is making it more challenging for businesses to hire the workers they need.

Prior to 2018, Maryland had one of the worst child care subsidy programs in the country. That year saw the beginning of several major improvements in Maryland's CCS program, including legislation mandating that scholarship rates rise from 9th percentile of the market to at least the 60th percentile, and a regulatory expansion of family income eligibility from approximately $35,000 to $72,000 for a family of four. In July 2022, the state made further improvements to the CCS. Scholarship rates were increased to the 70th percentile of the market, income eligibility was expanded to just over $90,000 for a family of four, and parental copayments were eliminated for many families and drastically reduced for all others.

These improvements have made an important difference for Maryland families and our economy:[v]

- The child care scholarship program now serves more than 30,000 children, more than double the number receiving assistance during FY 2018.
- Based on states' historical experiences following child care expansions, improved access to care may have enabled up to 11,900 women to gain employment, with resulting earnings of up to $381 million
- By enabling more women to enter the workforce, these child care expansions may have lifted as many as 8,800 Marylanders out of poverty.
- Between the earnings boost from increased employment and families' cost savings from getting help with child care, these expansions may have increased household spending by up to $127 million and generated up to $27 million in state and local tax revenue.

Legislation passed in 2023 was aimed at protecting these improvements by ensuring the Maryland State Department of Education cannot unilaterally reinstate co-pays or wait lists without first notifying the General Assembly. Maryland has a history of imposing enrollment freezes for the CCS program at different times over the past two decades as a means of cutting costs, preventing otherwise eligible parents from receiving assistance they need to work and support their family.

SB 362 would allow the Administration to unilaterally institute waitlists for the CCS Program, eliminating the requirement that MSDE inform the General Assembly before any such cost-cutting measures are taken. Limiting access to this critical safety-net program would harm economic security for families and could upend child care arrangements for families. **We urge the Committee urges the committee to strike Page 8, Line 25 through Page 9, Line 23 to protect access to the Child Care Scholarship program.**

Community Colleges Are Essential for Marylanders and Our Economy

Just over 100,000 students were enrolled in Maryland community colleges in fall 2023,[vi] working toward a diverse range of goals from basic education, to certification for in-demand occupations, to preparation for a four-year institution. As of 2021, community colleges served half of all in-state undergraduate students.[vii] The legislature updated the Cade funding formula used for calculating community college funding starting in FY 2023, resulting in a more accurate calculation of community college funding needs to make it commensurate with other investments in higher education. **The formula changes proposed in SB 362 would represent a step backwards for these essential institutions, cutting more than $130 million in funds over the next five years.**

Community colleges are an essential source of college access for students who face an array of barriers built through a combination of discriminatory policy and inaction:[viii]

- 61% of credit students at Maryland community colleges were students of color in fall 2021; 30% of students were Black and 12% were Latinx.
- 5% of students reported a disability.
- 62% of students were women.
- 20% of students were at least 30 years old.

Community colleges also bring essential benefits to Maryland's economy by training our workforce for the growing number of jobs that require some college education but not a four-year degree. Students enrolled in Maryland community colleges in the 2015–2016 school year were expected to earn an additional $6.4 billion over their lifetimes because of this education, according to one analysis.[ix]

Community colleges in Maryland have dealt with significant challenges over the last several years as the COVID-19 pandemic required institutions to strengthen and expand remote learning and adapt to fast-changing labor market conditions.

We urge the Committee reject to changes to the Cade funding formular for community colleges proposed in SB 362.

Note: MDCEP is not taking a position for or against other proposed changes in SB 362.

Equity Impact Analysis: SB 362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Bill summary

SB 362 proposes removing language that would prohibit the Maryland State Department of Education from unilaterally implementing wait lists for the Child Care Scholarship Program. It also makes permanent changes to the Cade formula for community college funding that would reduce state funding for community colleges in FY 2025 and future years.

Background

As of 2018, Maryland had one of the worst child care subsidy programs in the country. That changed in 2018 with the beginning of several major improvements in Maryland's CCS, including legislation mandating that eligibility expand and scholarship rates increase to include more families. Legislation passed in 2023 was aimed at protecting recent improvements by ensuring the Maryland State Department of Education cannot unilaterally reinstate co-pays or wait lists without first notifying the General Assembly.

Just over 100,000 students were enrolled in Maryland community colleges in fall 2023,[x] working toward a diverse range of goals from basic education, to certification for in-demand occupations, to preparation for a four-year institution. As of 2021, community colleges served half of all in-state undergraduate students.[xi] The legislature updated the Cade funding formula used for calculating community college funding starting in FY 2023, resulting in a more accurate calculation of community college funding needs to make it commensurate with other investments in higher education. The formula changes proposed in SB 362 would reduce community college funding by more than $130 million over the next five years.

Equity Implications

While the high cost of child care is a burden even for relatively well-off families, the burden is greatest for parents in low-wage paying jobs:

- In Maryland, one in seven employed mothers of very young children worked in a low-wage occupation.
- Because of pay discrimination and other structural barriers, Black, Latinx, and American Indian parents are more likely to take home low wages that put child care out of reach.

Insufficient access to child care places an especially high burden on women, who in most families still carry a greater share of child care responsibilities than men:

- 57% of working mothers with children under 12 reported difficulty handling child care as of October 2020, compared to 47% of fathers.
- Working mothers are also more likely than working fathers (including remote and in-person workers) to report cutting their work hours, having their dedication to work questioned, or even missing out on a promotion because of child care responsibilities.

Community colleges are an essential source of college access for students who face an array of barriers built through a combination of discriminatory policy and inaction:[xii]

- 61% of credit students at Maryland community colleges were students of color in fall 2021; 30% of students were Black and 12% were Latinx.
- 5% of students reported a disability.
- 62% of students were women.
- 20% of students were at least 30 years old.

Impact

Amending SB 362 as outlined above to protect investments in community colleges and child care would likely **improve racial, gender, and economic equity** in Maryland.

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[i] "Maryland Family Network Public Policy Handbook 2021–2022," Maryland Family Network, 2021, https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Public%20Policy%20Handbook%202021-22%20rev.pdf with calculations by MDCEP; University System of Maryland FY 2021 tuition data from Maryland FY 2022 budget books. Tuition data for University of Maryland–Baltimore are not reported.

[ii] "NWLC Resource: Mothers of Very Young Children in Low-Wage Occupations," National Women's Law Center, 2017, https://nwlc.org/resources/interactive-map-mothers-very-young-children-low-wage-occupations/

[iii] Christopher Meyer, "Budgeting for Opportunity: Maryland's Workforce Development Policy Can Be a Tool to Remove Barriers and Expand Opportunity," Maryland Center on Economic Policy, 2021, http://www.mdeconomy.org/budgeting-for-opportunity-workforce/

[iv] "State of the Economy," Office of the Comptroller, 2023 https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/reports/static-files/SOTE.pdf

[v] Forthcoming MDCEP analysis.

[vi] FY 2025 Aid to Community Colleges operating budget analysis, Department of Legislative Services, https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/budgetfiscal/2025fy-budget-docs-operating-R62I0005-Aid-to-Community-Colleges.pdf

[vii] Maryland Association of Community Colleges 2022 databook, https://mdacc.org/databooks/

[viii] Maryland Association of Community Colleges 2022 databook, https://mdacc.org/databooks/

[ix] "Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Education: The Economic Value of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges," Emsi, 2016, https://mdacc.org/wp-content/uploads/MACC_ExecSum_1516_Final.pdf

[x] FY 2025 Aid to Community Colleges operating budget analysis, Department of Legislative Services, https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/budgetfiscal/2025fy-budget-docs-operating-R62I0005-Aid-to-Community-Colleges.pdf

[xi] Maryland Association of Community Colleges 2022 databook, https://mdacc.org/databooks/

[xii] Maryland Association of Community Colleges 2022 databook, https://mdacc.org/databooks/

Committee_for_Montgomery_Supports_MC_College_Amend
Uploaded by: Kenneth Nelson
Position: FWA

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committee for
MONTGOMERY

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Senator Bill Ferguson
President
Maryland Senate
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
SB0362/HB0352 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Dear Senator President Ferguson and Speaker Jones,

All of Maryland's community colleges are engines of opportunity and economic growth, the Committee for Montgomery, asks you to reject the proposed $22.6 million reduction to Maryland's community colleges in FY25 and the permanent reductions to funding for community colleges in future years under the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024. Instead, please protect the Senator John R. Cade Funding Formula (Cade) and use the formula to calculate state aid to community colleges in FY25 and beyond.

Today, Montgomery College creates ready workers for in-demand jobs like nurses, cyber security techs, and lab bench workers. Their alumni are also job creators, exemplified by Carl Buch, president of Buch Construction, and Sol Graham, the founder of Quality Biologic, Inc. MC alumni stay here and invest in our communities. So, we ask you to continue to invest in Montgomery College.

We ask to invest in the 40,000 students at MC, whose 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.

Additionally, we ask you to invest because enrollment is up! Fall credit enrollment is up 4% from last fall, while enrollment for the spring semester is up 5% over last spring.

The data also tells us that continued investment is warranted to serve our students equitably—to take down the barriers to college completion. 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.

And finally, MC opens doors to opportunity for so many residents. Many students struggle to afford tuition. More than 60% of MC students attend part-time often to juggle finances, work, and family. The household income of MC's Pell Grant recipients is $28,000. This is why state aid is so crucial.

Thank you for your consideration. The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) asks you to protect the Cade formula and continue to invest in Maryland's community colleges and its students—you will open doors to opportunity and fuel the workforce with homegrown talent.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:
Shannon Babe Thomas
8E01D0DC5825405...
Shannon Babe Thomas, Chair

DocuSigned by:
Kenneth Nelson
43B16C22D0FC4E2...
Kenneth Nelson, Issues Chair

cc: Senator Nancy J. King, Delegate Jared Solomon, Delegate Sarah Wolek

www.committeeformontgomery.org

SB0362-BT_MACo_SWA.pdf
Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally
Position: FWA

MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

Senate Bill 362

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

MACo Position: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 29, 2024

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 362 **WITH AMENDMENTS.**

This bill is the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA), reconciling various provisions incorporated into the Administration's fiscal 2025 plan, bringing the proposed budget into balance for the year. MACo appreciates the difficult task of constructing a balanced budget plan. However, counties are concerned with certain components of the BRFA and their future effect on local governments.

PERMANENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING REDUCTION

Proposes dramatic, permanent reductions in state funding for Maryland's community colleges.

<u>MACo urges the Committee to reject this section of the BRFA.</u>

The Senator John R. Cade funding formula – which bases community college funding on a percentage of the appropriation per full-time enrollment student (FTES) at four-year public higher education institutions – aims to provide community colleges with predictable operations support and help maintain affordable tuition rates.

However, for 25 years, the State employed formula-rebasing techniques to decrease community college funding or delay full funding of the formula, resulting in a lengthy history of imbalance in state support of its community colleges compared to public four-year colleges. From 2009 to 2022, the State shortchanged community colleges by over $140 million, further harming Maryland's most vulnerable student population.

For the past two years – for the first time – the State fulfilled its obligation to fully fund Maryland's community colleges. Achieving this goal is more than just receiving an increase – it is a recognition that students enrolled in community colleges deserve the same level of support as those in public universities.

When fully funding the Cade formula, the State supports equitable access to higher education for all Marylanders. However, by rebasing one formula, the State effectively prioritizes one segment over the other.

The BRFA proposes permanently altering the Cade formula by arbitrarily changing the enrollment calculation and lowering from 29% to 26.5% of the funding provided per FTES compared to the four-year schools. In addition, the bill cuts the hold harmless provision of the Cade formula − making it even more difficult to budget effectively and maintain essential programs and services.

DLS estimates that this proposal would cut overall funding for community colleges by approximately $138 million by fiscal 2029.

When state funding lags, additional pressure builds on county budgets and student tuition. As county governments are similarly facing budget constraints, these cuts will result in tuition increases at a time when training and education opportunities are most needed.

Maryland's community colleges are graduating more students than ever, and enrollment is up eight percent over last year. Given those successes and the lengthy history of inequitable funding, permanently slashing funding for community colleges is particularly untoward. Counties urge that this cut be rejected.

HIGHWAY USER REVENUES – LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Proposes to abandon long-overdue progress on restoring funding for local roads.

MACo urges the Committee to reject this section of the BRFA.

While the Governor has announced a one-time infusion from the State general fund to maintain services for the coming year, a plan to scale back spending in future years − including a step backward on the share of state-levied taxes dedicated to local transportation needs − remains before the legislature.

In Maryland, local governments have no authority to levy their own transportation revenues – counties and municipalities depend entirely on a share of State-levied revenues to support safety and maintenance work on local roads and bridges across the state.

For decades, the State supported a balanced means to maintain its transportation infrastructure. The bulk of transportation revenues – mainly motor fuel and vehicle titling taxes – have been split between the State (for its consolidated Transportation Trust Fund, serving multiple modes) and local governments (who own and maintain roughly five of every six road miles across the state).

The State faced a mid-year budget crisis during the depths of the "Great Recession" in 2009. In turn, the Board of Public Works adopted a 90% reduction of the local distributions of these Highway User Revenues and a roughly 40% reduction to Baltimore City's allocation (the largest by far to any jurisdiction). Since then, recession-driven cutbacks have been fully or primarily restored in many service areas. This is not the case with Highway User Revenues – they remain far behind historic levels, even after the State has enacted a substantial transportation revenue increase.

The $396 million in the proposed budget plan for fiscal 2025 remains far short of Maryland's proper and historic funding levels, even on a simple dollar-to-dollar basis. Accounting for road maintenance and materials costs would expand this gap even further.

Under current law, DLS projects local Highway User Revenue distributions to increase by $241.5 million in fiscal 2026 and $245.6 million in fiscal 2027. However, the BRFA slashes funding for local roads and bridges across the state by eliminating planned increases in fiscal 2026 and fiscal 2027.

County leaders urge state policymakers to resist these deep cuts and advance a sustainable solution to address these infrastructure needs across the state. In advancing such a plan, a proper restoration of the Highway User Revenues formula should itself be a priority to create sensible and reliable support for all locally maintained roadways.

DISPARITY GRANTS

MACo requests the Committee restore formula-driven cuts to the Disparity Grant Program and urges a legislative solution to address the variability in the program.

The Disparity Grant Program promotes fiscal equity by providing noncategorical state aid to less affluent counties with proven local income tax effort. The program serves to ensure counties that rely on local income taxes for substantial revenue can generate sufficient yield to fund education, public safety, roadway maintenance and safety programs, and other essential services upon which residents rely.

State-imposed "caps" in this program artificially lessen the effective revenue from such jurisdictions, including those who have exercised the maximum county income tax rate. Over the past five years, cap provisions have reduced state funding under the disparity grant program by approximately $233 million.

This year, the variability in the program − largely arising from the volatility in non-wage income as a part of this year-by-year formula − triggers a funding decline of over $31 million for fiscal 2025, including a $29 million loss in Prince George's County alone.

Cutting the disparity grant program will disproportionately affect less affluent counties and exacerbate pressures at the local level by undermining county revenue structures and support for schools, transportation, public health, and other essential services and programs.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT MATCHING FUNDS

MACo urges the Committee to amend its current study language regarding State core/discretionary funding to Local Health Departments to address the appropriate range of funds subject to the longstanding matching funds requirements. For fiscal 2025, BRFA language should clarify the matching fund calculation, to avoid a major fiscal shock to local health funding.

The State began funding local health departments and services over a half century ago. Local governments are required to match these State core funds according to percentages established in 1996, which were based on each jurisdiction's revenue-raising ability. For years, this matching funds requirement has been a relatively trivial matter, as local contributions frequently dwarf the match requirement.

However, in fiscal 2024, the State allocated new funding for their own employees stationed at both state and local agencies, and curiously, this non-core discretionary salary increase was apparently included in the local match calculation. Counties were informed about this calculation after their budget cycle was completed for fiscal 2024 – creating an unanticipated increase in local funding requirements (in one county nearly tripling its match amount from the year before). The result of this oddly timed exchange was a series of questions and eventual waivers – leading in part to the DLS requested report (due in the fall of 2024) to sort out these various funding streams more clearly.

Counties are currently building the local budget for fiscal 2025, and have been advised additional increases are expected, yet they have not received a forecasted estimate nor a clear explanation of the formula base.

BRFA language this session should clarify that the matching fund requirement for local health department funds should not apply to salary-related or similar discretionary funding, and for fiscal 2025 should not exceed the county's actual funding amount from fiscal 2024. Following the study suggested by DLS and agreed to by the Maryland Department of Health, refinements or clarifications can be introduced in subsequent sessions if the Department seeks to create new statutory matching obligations based on other funding streams.

CONCLUSION

MACo and county leaders are prepared to work with state policymakers on these issues and other considerations as part of a responsible, balanced budget plan. MACo hopes that state leaders recognize that burdens on county budgets are substantial, and these challenges would only be worsened by added cost shifts or disproportionate budget cutbacks on county programs.

SB362 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley
Position: FWA

WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Senator Guy Guzzone, Vice Chair Senator Jim Rosapepe, Member of Budget, and Taxation Committee

RE: SB362-Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Position: Oppose Lottery Reduction in Fees

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations, convenience stores and repair facilities across the state.

Page 26 of BRFA reduces lottery agent fee from 6% to 5.5% and cuts cashing commission from 3% to 2%.

4400 lottery agents divided $219,856,683 in fees, if averaged would be close to $50,000 per agent for the year (FY2023). ($40.6 million). Sounds like a lot of money until you look at retailer's cost

In 2022 Hb1179 increased agent fees from 5.5% to 6% after being stuck at 5.5% for 8 years. Every conceivable cost for a retailer has increased, labor, taxes, Real estate. Retailers keep dedicated employees on terminal during busy times. Now the Governor wants to use small business for a piggy bank, which is just not fair. Lottery agents raised $714,256,896 in net profit for Maryland and that average of $50,000 per lottery agent most likely did not cover their costs.

The 3% cashing fee, cut to 2%, that's part of agents $50,000, and the governor wants to cut it buy 33%, Lottery agents manage an incredible amount of cash, remember no credit cards to play lottery games. Cashing tickets, taking cash for every play comes with security concerns and risks. Lottery agents earn every bit of that 3% cashing and 6% selling.

Find the money elsewhere, sales tax increase that would spread it out to all would be one area, and I am sure you could find others.

Maryland lottery continues to grow, up 6% ($40.6 million) in FY2023, equal parts lottery management and agents. Let's keep that formular working.

Please Take Lottery Reduction Out of Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 SB362

Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.ne

MD Rise - SB 362 - BRFA - FWA.pdf
Uploaded by: Lisa Klingenmaier
Position: FWA

Testimony in Support with Amendment of Senate Bill 362
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024

Maryland Rise strongly supports the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program, and opposes any cost-cutting measures to restrict access to this vital safety-net for families. Consequently, we urge the committee to reject the BRFA provision that would allow the Administration to re-institute waitlists for the CCS program.

Amidst rising inflation and the disappearance of extra supports that were prevalent during the height of the pandemic, low-income Marylanders are struggling to stay afloat. The CCS program is a critical safety-net for working families, allowing Marylanders to access affordable, quality, inclusive child care. Child care ranks as one of the top four highest household expenses for Maryland families across all jurisdictions in the state, and without supports like CCS, child care costs and responsibilities are the primary reason many women exit the labor force.[1,2]

Maryland Rise thanks the Administration for the significant investment in the CCS program in FY 2024 and FY 2025, but is alarmed by the proposed BRFA language that would allow the Administration to create waitlists for CCS. The proposed language removes the essential safeguards in the program that advocates and the Maryland General Assembly championed together in the 2023 CCS legislation. We are deeply concerned that allowing the Department to unilaterally institute waitlists for the CCS program will harm families by limiting access to this fundamentally important safety-net program, and can upend child care arrangements for families. The last time waitlists were imposed in 2011, it took seven years for all eligible Maryland families to regain access to the program. The enhancements Maryland has made to the CCS over the past few years has led to historic enrollment in the program, providing more access and equitable care to over 32,000 children.[3] Allowing for the institution of waitlists will derail much of that progress. While we know there are budget challenges ahead, we should not be looking to the Child Care Scholarship program as a place to find cost-savings. Dollars allocated to this program are not an expense, but an investment in our children, in Maryland families, and in our economy as a whole.

Maryland Rise strongly urges the committee to strike page 8 line 25 through page 9 line 23 to protect access to the Child Care Scholarship program. Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by: Lisa Klingenmaier, Executive Director

Maryland Rise works to promote economic opportunity for all Marylanders.

[1] Maryland Family Network. 2024. Child Care Demographics. https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/Maryland%202.0.pdf
[2] OECD Library. (n.d.). OECD Labour Force Statistics. OECD Library. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/ employment/oecd-labour-force-statistics_23083387
[3] Maryland State Department of Education. 2023. Data – Participation Data Children by County. https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/data

For more information contact: Lisa Klingenmaier (443-931-8920; lisa@marylandrise.org)

MGA2024-BRFA-SB362-FWA-MDAC.pdf
Uploaded by: Liz Zogby
Position: FWA

T21 MDAC

MARYLAND DOWN SYNDROME
ADVOCACY COALITION

SB362: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
February 28, 2024
Position: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC) is a coalition of the five Down syndrome organizations in Maryland and individuals with Down syndrome and their families who come together to advocate for improved quality of life for all individuals with Down syndrome in Maryland. MDAC works in coalition with other disability and advocacy organizations across the state and supports many legislative and policy efforts.

Most adults with Down syndrome rely on services provided under a Medicaid waiver through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to live the lives they choose in the community. Some individuals choose to receive these services through a traditional provider model, while others choose to self-direct their services. In 2022 the Maryland General Assembly passed the Self-Direction Act which guaranteed key flexibilities in self-directed services. We are concerned by the section in SB362 (p. 20, lines 8–21) that would remove an important provision of the Self-Direction Act disallowing DDA from establishing a limit on “the dollar amount of individual–directed and family–directed goods and services provided to a recipient.” The imposition of such a limit would be antithetical to the rate parity that underlies Maryland’s waiver programs. Regardless of the service model that an individual chooses, the dollar amount per hour for personal support services is equal in both traditional and self-direction. The limit for every individual is their budget, which is based on a Person-Centered Plan, approved by DDA, and may include only expenses authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

IFDGS are “services, equipment, activities, or supplies” that “relate to a need or goal in the person-centered plan, maintain or increase independence, promote opportunities for community living and inclusion, and are not available under another waiver service” and are authorized by CMS. IFDGS allow a person to exercise control over the design of their own life and build meaningful activities into their lives as defined by their Person-Centered Plan. For example, this category of expenditure could include therapeutic riding or a membership at the Y. These activities and programs are similar to those that might be offered as part of a day program in a traditional services model.

MDAC’s guiding principles include that people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities are able to make informed choices about all aspects of their lives, have the freedom to choose their daily routines and other activities, and should have readily available, easily accessible, fully funded, and flexible home and community-based services (HCBS) and long-term services and supports. In our view, it is critical that all people, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, are able to exercise maximal choice and control over their lives. Individuals who self-direct their services under a Medicaid waiver should, as guaranteed by the Self-Direction Act of 2022, have full rate parity with those who utilize other models of service provision, have access to their full budget, and be able to exercise full choice and control over their budget.

We request the referenced section (p. 20, lines 8–21) be stricken, upholding the original intent of the Self-Direction Act of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Zogby
Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
katzogby@gmail.com
443-691-1755

SB 362_MAP_FAV_AMEND.pdf
Uploaded by: Mark Huffman
Position: FWA

MARYLANDERS AGAINST POVERTY

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland
Anne Arundel County Food Bank
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Job Opportunities Task Force
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

Kali Schumitz, Co-Chair
P: 410-412- 9105 ext 701
E: kschumitz@mdeconomy.org

Mark Huffman, Co-Chair
P: (301) 776-0442 x1033
E: MHuffman@laureladvocacy.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF SB 362

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024

Submitted by Mark Huffman, Co-Chair

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) program, and opposes any cost-cutting measures to restrict access to this vital safety-net for families. Consequently, we urge the committee to reject the BRFA provision that would allow the Administration to re-institute waitlists for the CCS program.

Amidst rising inflation and the disappearance of extra supports that were prevalent during the height of the pandemic, low-income Marylanders are struggling to stay afloat. Direct service organizations in our coalition report rising numbers of households needing support for essentials like food and shelter. The CCS program is a critical safety-net for these working families, allowing Marylanders to access affordable, quality, inclusive childcare. Childcare ranks as one of the top four highest household expenses for Maryland families across all jurisdictions in the state, and without supports like CCS, childcare costs and responsibilities are the primary reason many women exit the labor force.[1,2]

MAP thanks the Administration for the significant investment in the CCS program in FY 2024 and FY 2025 but is alarmed by the proposed BRFA language that would allow the Administration to create waitlists for CCS. The proposed language removes the essential safeguards in the program that advocates, and the Maryland General Assembly championed together in the 2023 CCS legislation. We are deeply concerned that allowing the Department to unilaterally institute waitlists for the CCS program will harm families by limiting access to this fundamentally important safety-net program and can upend childcare arrangements for families. The last time waitlists were imposed, it took eight years for Maryland families to regain access to the program. While we know there are budget challenges ahead, we should not be looking to the Child Care Scholarship program as a place to find cost-savings. Dollars allocated to this program are not an expense, but an investment in our children, in Maryland families, and in our economy as a whole.

Marylander's Against Poverty appreciates your consideration and strongly urges the committee to strike page 8 line 25 through page 9 line 23 to protect access to the Child Care Scholarship program.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) *is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.*

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[1] Maryland Family Network. 2024. Child Care Demographics. https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/Maryland%202.0.pdf
[2] OECD Library. (n.d.). OECD Labour Force Statistics. OECD Library. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/oecd-labour-force-statistics_23083387

SB 362 BRFA testimony support with amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Power

Position: FWA

Support with Amendments

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Matt Power, President
mpower@micua.org
February 29, 2024

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to support with amendments Senate Bill 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024.

The Budget and Reconciliation Act (BRFA), as proposed, decimates the 50-year partnership between the State of Maryland and MICUA's membership. It represents the largest reduction of any program in the BRFA and reduces the Sellinger program by nearly half. There is no logic to the creation of this new formula other than to slash funding for the Sellinger Program. As a result of the new formula, three schools receive drastic reductions (74%, 52%, 46%) eight receive cuts ranging from 10% to 22% and one institution receives a 0.4% reduction. This is inherently unfair and inequitable for all the MICUA institutions. We urge the Committee to work with MICUA to provide fair and equitable funding for the Sellinger Program.

No single program in the entire FY 25 operating budget receives anywhere near a cut of this magnitude. The reduction in raw dollar terms is nearly THREE times any other reduction in the BRFA. The cut is unnecessarily punitive and will hurt prospective undergraduates who are already struggling to determine if they can afford college in the coming year. The US Department of Education's FAFSA delays are already expected to result in the smallest enrollment in decades because students will not know what level of federal or State financial aid they will receive, likely until May. That is why funding Sellinger this year is more critical than ever. MICUA institutions will know their Sellinger allocations by April and can utilize those funds to start making awards to Maryland undergraduates. 89% of all Sellinger funds are dedicated to financial aid for Maryland students and at nearly all MICUA institutions, 99% of that financial aid funding is awarded to Maryland undergraduates. MICUA enrollments have only just begun to rebound from the impacts of the pandemic, but the combination of the FAFSA delays and the proposed cut in the BRFA will decimate enrollments in a way that will take years to recover from. If MICUA institutions close, there simply is not enough capacity in the other segments of higher education to serve the needs of our existing students, let alone our prospective students.

MICUA recognizes the fiscal realities facing the State and urges the committee to consider our proposal to achieve significant budgetary savings in a way that does not have wildly disproportionate and random impacts on our institutions.

(1) Preserve the legislative integrity of the Sellinger formula created by the General Assembly more than five decades ago. Reject the current language in the BRFA and restore the formula to its original design.
(2) Include a provision in the BRFA that ensures no single MICUA institution can receive more than 35% of the Sellinger formula allocation in one fiscal year.

Our proposal is a fair compromise, rooted in our respect for the partnership our members have shared with the State of Maryland, in some instances, for over two centuries. We urge the Committee to adopt this good faith proposal that still results in a nearly 20% reduction to the Program, but also distributes the reductions in a much more fair and equitable way. We have provided you with additional materials that demonstrate the incredible value the State receives from our partnership, and we encourage you to review these materials carefully as you consider our proposal.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable with amendments report for Senate Bill 362.

MICUA

MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE *and* UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

MICUA's Request

Fair and Equitable Funding of the Sellinger Formula

1. Preserve the legislative integrity of the Sellinger formula created by the General Assembly more than five decades ago. Reject the current language in the BRFA and restore the formula to its original design.

2. Include a provision in the BRFA that ensures no single MICUA institution can receive more than 35% of the Sellinger formula allocation in one fiscal year.

A Cut of This Size Devastates Maryland Undergraduates

- The current BRFA language results in a nearly 50% reduction to the Sellinger Program. No single program in the entire FY 25 operating budget receives anywhere near a cut of this magnitude.
- The BRFA cut creates huge funding disparities for the institutions. Three schools receive drastic reductions (74%, 52%, 46%), eight receive cuts ranging from 10% to 22%, and one institution receives nearly the same allotment as the prior year.
- 89% of ALL Sellinger funds are dedicated to financial aid for Maryland students.
- At nearly all MICUA institutions, 99% of that financial aid funding is awarded to MARYLAND UNDERGRADUATES.
- Slashing half the financial aid to Maryland undergraduates will decimate enrollments.

The Timing Couldn't Be Worse

- The US Department of Education FAFSA delays are already expected to result in the smallest enrollments in decades.
- This cut will result in fewer low-income and first-generation students enrolling. 25% of MICUA undergraduates are recipients of Pell grants.
- Sellinger funding is CRITICAL to ensure MICUA members can award financial aid in time for students to make smart financial decisions.
- MICUA members avoided closures due to the pandemic and are just beginning to recover from the financial and enrollment declines. If MICUA institutions close, the State's 4-year publics don't have the capacity to serve the needs of our existing and prospective Maryland students.

MICUA

MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE *and* UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Maryland's Workforce Will Suffer

- The Maryland economy now demands a highly educated workforce to survive, let alone thrive and grow.
- Maryland ranks 6th in bachelor's degree attainment and 3rd in graduate or professional degree attainment because Maryland created a diverse system of education within our publics, independents and community colleges. There is a path for everyone in the State to pursue higher education.
- No individual sector of higher education can possibly meet all the demands of our economy and the needs of Maryland students, which is why, for 50 years the General Assembly has sought to provide to the independent sector a small % of the per student funding that was provided to USM institutions.
- MICUA members produce 50% of the education degrees at or above the baccalaureate level and Sellinger funding is critical to ensuring that teachers can afford their education. How does the State fulfill the goals of the Blueprint if our teacher candidates leave the State to get their degrees?
- Even with all three segments of higher education receiving support from the State, Maryland still loses two Maryland high school graduates for every one it imports from another State. This cut will result in more brain drain and more Maryland high school graduates leaving the State.

The History of The Sellinger Program

1971

MICUA is founded by independent college and university presidents.

1972

The University of Baltimore, then a private institution, seeks to be taken over by the State, citing financial troubles. The Pear Committee is established and recommends that the State provide public support for private higher education to strengthen a dual system of higher education.

1973

Following the recommendation of the Pear Committee, a program of State operating support is established.

1993

The State's formula to distribute aid is officialy renamed the **Joseph A. Sellinger** State Aid Program.

2023

MICUA celebrated **50 years** of continued public/private partnership with the State.

2024 MOTA SB 362 House Side.pdf
Uploaded by: Michael Paddy
Position: FWA

Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee: **Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Bill: **Senate Bill 362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act**

Hearing Date: **February 29, 2024**

Position: **Support with Amendment**

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) urgently requests an amendment to Senate Bill 362 – The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act. We fully understand that this legislation is necessary to balance the state's budget; but we ask for the Committee's consideration in reversing the proposed fund transfer of $776,646 from the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to the general fund.

Just as other health occupations boards, the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice is entirely funded by occupational therapy practitioners through licensure fees. The proposed fund transfer is arbitrary and harmful:

- **Arbitrary and Disproportionate:** The proposed fund transfer would leave the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice with a fund balance that is just 68% of its annual budget. According to the Department of Legislative Services, this transfer would place the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice behind ten other boards with higher fund balances. The BRFA contemplates fund transfers from two other health occupational boards, but leaves those Boards with fund balances that are both around 120% of their annual budgets.[1] **The proposed fund balance transfer in BRFA will have a disproportionately high impact on the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice. We know of no reason why the Board would be singled-out in this manner. We contemplate that it may have been a mistake in calculating the proposed transfer.**

- **Board will need to raise licensure fees:** With the disproportionate proposed cut, the Board will need to raise licensure fees much sooner to make-up for the loss in reserves. **<u>This means that occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants will soon be paying higher licensure fees. This seems unfair as the amount of the proposed fund balance appears to be a mistake.</u>**

- **Reserves Are Needed for Implementation of New Initiatives:** The Board is planning to undergo two major initiatives:

  - **Implementation of Occupational Therapy Compact:** The Maryland General Assembly adopted the Occupational Therapy Compact in 2021. As the Compact has now been adopted by enough states, we are entering into the implementation phase. Resources may be needed for implementation including updates to the Board's IT systems; and

  - **Moving Office Spaces:** The Board's offices have been on the campus of Spring Grove. The space is affordable, but the Board is being forced to move because the offices are no longer habitable because of black mold. The Board is likely to need to pay for commercial space. With the closure of the State Office Complex on Preston Street in Baltimore, there is no longer state office space available.

- **Funding Behavioral Health Services through Provider Fees is Not Good Policy:** MOTA fully supports ensuring there is sufficient funding for the Behavioral Health Administration. We think it is bad policy for services to paid for by behavioral health providers. Behavioral health providers, including occupational therapy practitioners, are already stretched to the limit because of the health professional shortages. We believe that the resources needed for the Behavioral Health Administration should come from the State's general fund, as it should be a shared responsibility to support these services. We would also note that it also seems problematic to occupational therapy providers, as occupational therapists are not always recognized as part of the behavioral health provider team by the State's policies.

Please reverse the proposed fund balance transfer for the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

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[1] https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/budgetfiscal/2025fy-budget-docs-operating-M00B0104-MDH-Health-Professional-Boards-and-Commissions.pdf

2024 LCPCM SB 362 Senate Side.pdf
Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott
Position: FWA

Committee: **Senate Budget and Tax Committee**

Bill: **Senate Bill 362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act**

Hearing Date: **February 29, 2024**

Position: **Support with Amendment**

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports Senate *Bill 352 – Budget Reconciliation Act* with an amendment. We urge the Committee to remove the language that transfers $1.6 million from the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to the general fund to support the Behavioral Health Administration.

On page 35, strike lines 24 and 25:

~~(1) $1,648,669 of the funds in the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists Fund established under § 17–206 of the Health Occupations Article~~

LCPCM appreciates that Maryland is facing a budget shortfall, but we are deeply concerned about the proposed fund transfer. The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is entirely funded from licensure fees from licensed clinical professional counselors, alcohol and drug counselors, marriage and family therapists, and behavior analysists.

Licensed clinical professional counselors, along with our other behavioral health colleagues, are shouldering the immense increase in the need for behavioral health services in Maryland. As a profession, we are already stretched to the limit in our professional responsibilities. We should not shoulder the additional burden of paying for the very services that we provide under the Behavioral Health Administration. The proposed fund transfer is counterintuitive. We want to ensure that the Behavioral Health Administration is appropriated funded, but the funding should come from the State's general resources as shared priority for everyone in the State.

Please eliminate the proposed fund balance transfer from the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

SB362_MRA_FWA.pdf
Uploaded by: Sarah Price
Position: FWA

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland

SB362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29th, 2024

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Background: SB362 would, in an effort to increase State revenues, reduce lottery agent sales commissions and prize ticket cashing commissions for lottery agents.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance has serious concerns about the proposed alterations to lottery agent sales commission and prize ticket cashing commission rates included in SB362. The State budget as proposed would reduce commission rates from 6.0% to 5.5% for lottery sales and 3.0% to 2.0% for prize ticket cashing. The commission rates were raised to their current level in 2022 as the result of a long-standing agreement set when casino gaming legislation passed in 2012. State leadership and the legislature at that time understood that lottery retailers would be adversely affected by the introduction of a brick-and-mortar gaming industry, and the commission rates were finally increased just two years ago.

Lottery retailers in Maryland are facing a multitude of proposals this year that would impact operations, sales, and revenue. These include tobacco sales restrictions, license fee increases, staffing requirements, increased tobacco taxes, the implementation of internet lottery sales, and the commission reductions proposed in the State budget. Though we only testify on one bill at a time, and most of these bills will not be considered by this committee, MRA must occasionally consider the sum of several bills when determining our position on one piece of legislation as no bill is passed in a vacuum. Each of these measures would have a detrimental impact on operations and comes with a high cost for retailers, and the commission reductions in particular are estimated to result in a loss of upwards of $6,000 per store each year.

Just as Marylanders are experiencing high costs for housing, transportation, and goods, businesses in Maryland are constantly adjusting to ever-increasing operational costs: high commercial rent, increased transportation costs for goods, high labor costs, and workforce shortages are all impacting businesses, and the cost of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program is still to come. We would respectfully urge you to seriously consider the compounding effect of these policies and the legislation proposed this year on Maryland's businesses, and to reduce the impact on lottery retailers by removing the lottery commission rate reductions from SB362.

Thank you for your consideration.

MSLBA
MARYLAND STATE
LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION
150 E Main Street, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Senate President Bill Ferguson (Administration)

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 362 – *Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024*

The Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA), which consists of approximately 800 Maryland businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses (restaurants, bars, taverns and package stores), **opposes the portion of this bill, which reduces lottery commissions**.

Senate Bill 362 will decrease the sales commissions paid to lottery agents from the current 6% down to 5.5%, as well as the cashing fee from 3% to 2%. Going back to 2005, agents were paid a sales commission of 5.5%. The General Assembly then increased the commission to 6%, effective upon the opening of the Horseshoe Casino in 2014, only to reduce it back to 5.5% before the higher rate ever really took effect. Just last year in 2023, the General Assembly finally returned the rate to 6%.

Agents are the backbone of the success of the Maryland Lottery. Found across the State in thousands of small businesses, lottery agents are the public face of the Lottery, interacting with customers, sometimes daily. The commission paid to agents reflects the important role they play in maintaining and growing the Lottery's customer base.

The performance of the Lottery and its returns to the State have been excellent through good and bad times, however the costs to agents of running their businesses have steadily risen. The State's minimum wage has gone up considerably, increasing labor costs, as have other costs of keeping small businesses open, such as electricity, health insurance, and more recently other supplies. The decrease proposed in the BRFA bill will have substantial economic impact on lottery agents and may reduce the amount of time and resources available to staff the lottery ticket counter, resulting in fewer sales and less revenue to the State.

The MSLBA asks you to amend Senate Bill 362 to restore the commission and the cashing fee for lottery retailers to their current levels.

RE: **HB0352 -**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409 Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

Our son, Al has been self-directing his services since he graduated high school in 2015. We found out about self direction because Providers wouldn't take him. Turns out it was the best thing ever to happen to him.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022 which was passed unanimously by both the Senate and the House. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023 he has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person centered plan. <u>One small example is a very unique toothbrush that allows him to brush all of his teeth at the same time and independently and in only 1 minute - a cause for celebration!</u>

If IFDGS is capped it will have a detrimental effect on my son's independence, community inclusion, health and safety now and especially in the future as his Dad and I become less able to care for him and manage his needs. IFDGS allows for hiring a day to day administer to take over the things that Al's parents do now.

IFDGS is part of Al's approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for his needs should be available to him. <u>Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.</u>

We need your help. Please amend the BRFA as requested above.

Alicia, Dave and Al Wopat
410-591-2036

HB352 and SB362 Saylor testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Alicia Wopat
Position: UNF

Dear Chairperson and Esteemed Committee Members, 2/26/24

RE: HB0352/SB0362

I am writing to request you remove from the BRFA (HB352/SB362) any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 & SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact. Do not allow the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to place an arbitrary limit on Individual- Directed and Family-Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) for individuals in the self-directed service model.

My name is Patti Saylor, I am a nurse who has provided services to people self-directing their DDA waiver services for the last seventeen years. I have worked for over 250 individuals and their families. I am a member of the Self Direction Advocacy Board of Directors and a parent of a former self-directed waiver participant, now deceased.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill will reverse a major provision of The Self Direction Act of 2022. Allowing the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Goods and Services (IFDGS).

I was a participating member of the Maryland Self Direction Program Workgroup convened by HGO Chairperson Delegate Shane Pendergrass and then Vice Chairperson, Josephine Pena Melnyk after the 2021 legislative session. Workgroup membership consisted of The Honorable Karen Lewis Young, The Honorable Susan Lee, The Honorable Nicholaus Kipke, The Honorable Lisa Belcastro, The Honorable Harry Bhandari, The Honorable Kirill Reznik and The Honorable Geradine Valentino-Smith.

The remaining membership was comprised of people with lived experience of disability, family members, advocates and state agency representatives. The Workgroup was staffed by Kris Fair, Committee Secretary and Erin Hopwood, Committee Counsil

Additionally, the workgroup enlisted the input of nationally recognized subject matter experts and solicited public comment from stakeholders. The Workgroup met from July 2021 through December 31, 2021, with the Final Workgroup Report published on March 7,2022. You will find a copy included in this testimony.

The Self Direction Act of 2022 was passed into law with an implementation date of July 1,2022 for some components and July 1, 2023 for the remainder.

Participants depend on Individual and Family Goods and Services to pay for both program and administrative costs associated with their Self Direction Person Centered Plan. Funding for these costs comes from direct service rates associated with direct support services such as Person Supports and Community Development Services. Therefore, part of an individual’s Annual approved Plan.

It is unfathomable that the DDA under new leadership is acting to undue the will of the people, the work of the Maryland Self Direction Program Work Group and the Maryland State Legislature with so little time to collect data since the implementation of the SDS Act of 1022.

Participants must have access to their full DDA approved budget including Individual and Family Goods and Services which are connected to a need identified in their Person-Centered Plan.

Current DDA policy states people who self-direct their services are allowed the following if they have cost savings in their approved annual budget. Costs are not above and beyond what has been authorized by the DDA.

Allowable Administrative Costs:	Recruitment and Advertising
	Day to Day Administration
Allowable Goods and Services:	
	Activities that promote health (such as fitness memberships and items, personal training, aquatics, and horseback riding)
	Fees for programs and activities that promote socialization and independence (such as art, music, dance, sports, or other activities of the person's interest).
	And a variety of other goods and services listed in the DDA policy on IFDGS dated June 21, 2023

- **If truly concerned about budget utilization and effect on the overall DDA budget, please institute a workgroup to study the issues with stakeholder input and revisit changes next year.**

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand an issue that will have a significant impact on participants with disabilities who self- direct and their families.

Sincerely, Patti Saylor RN MS, CMDN patti.saylor@healthlinkllc.com

SDAN.HB352Testimony&Attachments.2-27-24 FINAL.pdf
Uploaded by: Alicia Wopat
Position: UNF

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

People On the Go Maryland

HB352/SB362: Unfavorable regarding ARTICLE—HEALTH—GENERAL, Section 7-101 and Section 7-409

- **Remove any reference to ARTICLE—HEALTH—GENERAL Section 7-101 and Section 7-409 on page 20. Leave all provisions of The Self-Direction Act of 2022 intact.**
- **Institute a workgroup to study the utilization of funds in self-direction model as compared to provider-manager/traditional model.**

- BRFA proposes to undo a provision of The Self-Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) by allowing a cap on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services IFDGS to be reinstated.
- All the provisions of The Act were just realized on July 1, 2023. This is inadequate time to determine what the utilization impact of The Act's provisions will be despite testimony from DDA at the Budget Hearings.
- Budget analysis of the DDA FY2025 budget indicates so far in FY2024 only $557,000 more has been spent than would have been possible had the $5000 cap remained on IFDGS this fiscal year.
- Assuming this represents six months of spending, that would equal about $1,114,000 annually or less than .05% of the proposed $2.1 billion DDA budget and only about $371 for each of the 3000 people who self-direct.
- DDA testimony at the Budget Hearing projected a potential overall addition to the budget of $270,000,000 with very little, if any, data to back this figure up.
- DDA waivers have ALWAYS called for parity of budgets between the two service models, but only recently has it been achieved.
- Access to these funds was still denied by DDA policy and procedures until the waiver amendment effective 7-1-2023, which was a requirement of The Act. Undoing IFDGS will require an amendment to the current waiver.
- One concern of The Act was the sustainability of self-direction when family is no longer able to provide supports to maintain the program, hire staff, and keep the participant's household running smoothly.
- DDA placed funding for this administrative position/support under IFDGS when it does not appropriately belong there (see DDA policy and CMS definition of IFDGS attached)
- The Day-to-Day Administrative support is a component of the rate for each service (see attached breakdown of the rates).
- The Self-Direction Act of 2022 was the result of a six-month study that included officials from the Maryland Department of Health, the Developmental Disabities Administration (DDA), officials from the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid services, state legislators, state advocacy groups, and stakeholders.
- It was unanimously approved by both the House and Senate of Maryland, with all members of the Health and Government Operations Committee signing on as co-sponsors.
- PLEASE GIVE IT TIME TO WORK AS INTENDED BY REMOVING ANY CHANGES TO HEATH 7-101 and 7-409 in HB352/SB362.
- If concerned about budget utilization and effect on DDA funding, PLEASE INSTITUTE A WORKGROUP TO STUDY THE ISSUES WITH STAKEHOLDER INPUT AND REVISIT NEXT YEAR.

Direct Care Staff:

1. Salaries for direct support staff (all DSP levels: I, II, & III)
2. Hourly wages for direct support staff
3. Direct time portion of overtime wages
4. Contracted staff providing direct support

Employment-Related Expenses (Other costs incurred in employment of all staff)

1. **Insurance**
   FICA
   FUTA/SUTA
   Unemployment
   Workers' comp
   Medical
1. **Benefits**
   Tuition reimbursement
   Retirement
   Fringe Benefits
   Gifts
2. **Vacations/Holiday/ Other pay**
   Paid Time off
   Bonuses
   Overtime portion of overtime wages
3. **Hiring Expenses**
   Fingerprinting
   Background checks

Program Support (Cost required to provide service (wages/goods) specific to the program, not directly providing the service)

1. Supplies & costs related to the specific service offered
2. Salary or hourly wage for Supervisors or Directors of Services
3. Program support wages
4. Food related to specific services
5. Activity costs
6. Contracted services
7. Quality assurance activities
8. Medical supplies
9. Equipment costs
10. IT expenses
11. Share of direct care staff documentation time

Transportation (costs incurred by transportation staff, transportation time, other transportation related costs)

1. Driver hourly wages/salaries
2. Salary or hourly wages of Vehicle Fleet Manager or Driver Manager
3. Share of Direct Care Staff wages commuting on the clock
4. Vehicle costs/maintenance/ insurance
5. Vehicle depreciation
6. Tags, title, and registrations
7. Other transportation costs (tolls, tickets, rentals, etc.)

Training (costs related to staff training, certifications, etc)

1. **Training**
   Training staff hourly wages
   Third-party training costs
2. **Conferences/conventions**
3. **Share of direct care staff time**
   New hire training
   Staff development
4. **Continuing Education**

General & Administrative (costs regardless of type of business (i.e., common to all businesses)

1. **Administrative salaries**
2. **Contracted administrative staff hourly wage**
3. **Office rent**
4. **Office utilities**
   Water, electric, etc
   Phone bill
   Cable
   Internet
5. **Office supplies**
6. **Management & executive salaries**
7. **General insurance**
8. **Advertising**
9. **Legal & accounting**
10. **Member dues & fees**
11. **Equipment costs**
12. **IT expenses**

From Page 185 of the January 2019 CMS Technical Guidance

16. Individual Directed Goods and Services

Core Service Definition

Individual Directed Goods and Services are services, equipment or supplies not otherwise provided through this waiver or through the Medicaid state plan that address an identified need in the service plan (including improving and maintaining the participant's opportunities for full membership in the community) and meet the following requirements: the item or service would decrease the need for other Medicaid services; AND/OR promote inclusion in the community; AND/OR increase the participant's safety in the home environment; AND, the participant does not have the funds to purchase the item or service or the item or service is not available through another source. Individual Directed Goods and Services are purchased from the participant-directed budget. Experimental or prohibited treatments are excluded. Individual Directed Goods and Services must be documented in the service plan.

Instructions

Modify or supplement the core definition to reflect the scope of individual directed goods and services in the waiver.

Guidance

- The coverage of this service permits a state to authorize the purchase of goods and services that are not otherwise offered in the waiver or the state plan.
- The coverage of this service is limited to waivers that incorporate the Budget Authority participant direction opportunity.
- Goods and services purchased under this coverage may not circumvent other restrictions on the claiming of FFP for waiver services, including the prohibition against claiming for the costs of room and board.
- The specific goods and services that are purchased under this coverage must be documented in the service plan.
- The goods and services that are purchased under this coverage must be clearly linked to an assessed participant need established in the service plan.

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services
Self-Directed Services
7/1/2023

Below is a tool for people who are self-directing their services and their teams to use to understand what Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) may and may not be requested. This tool is meant to complement DDA's Self Directed Services Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services policy/guidance.

What are IFDGS?

- Services, equipment, activities, or supplies that support people who self-direct
- Help meet listed needs in the PCP
- Help maintain or increase independence
- Cannot be provided through the waiver program or a state plan

There are three categories of IFDGS:

- Recruitment and Advertising
- Day to Day Administrator
- Other Goods and Services

Recruitment and Advertising

- Helps to fund activities that support staff recruitment for jobs
- **Can include:**
    - Making print or electronic flyers for sharing job advertisements
    - Software to create flyers (Adobe, Canva, Vista)
    - Printing physical flyers
    - Staff registries (Indeed.com, Care.com)
- Dedicated funding comes from the detailed service authorization in the Person-Centered Plan (PCP)
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Day to Day Administrator

- Direct and non-direct support to the person self-directing
- People can hire an employee or vendor to be the Day to Day Administrator, including relatives, guardians, or legally responsible individuals
- **Can include:**
    - Household management and scheduling
    - Employee scheduling
    - Scheduling appointments
    - Personal money management
- **Exclusions:**
    - The Day to Day Administrator cannot provide any other service at the same time
    - A person's Support Broker cannot be their Day to Day Administrator
    - The Day to Day Administrator cannot work more than 40 hours per week unless authorized by the DDA
- Funding must come from cost savings in the budget
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP

Other Goods and Services

Included	Not Included
Activities that promote health	Goods and services that compromise health and safety
Fees for programs/activities that promote socialization and independence	Experimental goods or treatments
Small kitchen appliances for independent meal planning	Co-payments for medical devices
Laundry appliances to promote independence and self-care	Over the counter medications or homeopathic services

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Sensory and safety items related to disability	Items used solely for entertainment or recreation
Personal electronic devices	Monthly cable television fees or services
Toothbrushes and dental services not covered by insurance	Monthly telephone fees
Weight Loss programs and services	Room and board
Nutritional consultation and supplements	Food
Internet services	Utility charges
Other goods and services that meet standards	Tobacco, alcohol, Marijuana or, illegal drugs
	Vacation expenses
	Vehicle insurance, maintenance, or other transportation-related events
	Clothing, shoes, or other personal items
	Haircuts, nail services, and spa treatments
	Tuition
	Staff bonuses
	Subscriptions
	Training
	Services in hospitals
	Cost of travel, meals, and overnight lodging for staff/family/support
	Service animals

	Exercise rooms, swimming pools, and hottubs
	Fines, debts, legal fees, advocacy fees
	Contribution to savings accounts (including ABLE)
	Country club membership/dues
	Leased/purchased vehicles

Other IFDGS must be requested using the IFDGS Request Form

SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES - BUDGET SHEET

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Enter Approved DDA Budget Allocation from the DSA here

	SDS Budget Total	Unallocated Funds
	$0.00	*$0.00*

PCP Status: Initial, Annual, Revised, or FMCS Change

Name: **Effective Date:** **Annual Plan Date:**

Number of Months Left in Plan: 12.00 **Number of Weeks Left in Plan:** 52.143 **Type of Waiver:**

Version 11/15/2023

Add any general notes that may be helpful for the team or FMCS as needed

Financial Management and Counseling Service (Required to Self-Direct)

	Chosen FMCS Agency	Rate per Month	# of Months	Budget Total
The Financial Management and Counseling Service (FMCS) is a service that **is now a part of your budget.** Choose from the Approved FMCS Agencies and include the rate per month provided by the FMCS. If the FMCS fees change in the middle of the year, include the rates in the two rows.				$0.00
				$0.00

Notes

The SDS Budget Sheet must not exceed the Approved DDA Budget Allocation. The box will turn red if you exceed your allocated budget.

- Unallocated funding may be accessed later using a budget modification form as per DDA guidance
- Yellow cells may be filled in. White cells will calculate.
- Enter hours, rates, number of months/weeks, items, etc. in the yellow cells.
- Use arrow keys to move between cells.

Support Broker

Support Broker				Budget Total
	Total Hours	Rate per Hour		
Initial orientation and assistance up to 15 hours				$0.00
	# of Hours per month	Rate per Hour	# of Months	
Ongoing Monthly Service - Staff				$0.00
Staff Benefits				
Health Benefits				
PTO Benefits				
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)				
Other Benefits - list				
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)				
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff		
Training (*e.g.,* CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)				$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per hour	Hours per Staff	
Staff Wages for Training				$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks	
Mileage				$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip		
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)				$0.00
Taxi/Uber				$0.00
Taxes				
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>				$0.00
Support Broker - Vendor/Contractor	# of Hours per Month	Rate per Hour	# of Months	
Support Broker - Vendor				$0.00

Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS

Services to Support My Daily Living

Personal Supports (PS)	Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff				*Anything over 82 hrs/wk must be preauthorized by the DDA*	$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff				*Tax is not calculated on contractor/vendor services.*	$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					$0.00	
Personal Supports - Overnight Staff					$0.00	
Staff Benefits						**Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS**
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)						
Training Costs	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (*e.g.,* CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip				
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00	
Taxi/Uber					$0.00	
Taxes						
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>					$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor	Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks			
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Personal Supports Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Supported Living	# of Days per Year	Rate Per Day			Budget Total	
Supported Living Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Supported Living Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Respite Care Services	# of Days per Year	Rate Per Day			Budget Total	
Respite - DDA Licensed Provider					$0.00	
Respite - DDA Licensed Provider					$0.00	

Respite - DDA Licensed Provider					$0.00	
Respite Care - Staff	# Hours	Rate per Hour				
Respite - Staff					$0.00	
Respite - Staff					$0.00	
Respite - Staff					$0.00	
Staff Benefits				*Respite care services hourly and daily total hours may not exceed 720 hours within each Person-Centered Plan plan year unless otherwise authorized by the DDA.* *Note: DDA Licensed Respite Provider services are based on a daily rate and equal 24 hours.*		**Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS**
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)						
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (*e.g.,* CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip				
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00	
Taxi/Uber					$0.00	
Taxes						
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)>*					$0.00	
Respite - Camp	Limit to $7248 per plan year					
Respite - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours	Rate per Hour	*Respite care services hourly and daily total hours may not exceed 720 hours within each Person-Centered Plan plan year unless otherwise authorized by the DDA.*			
Respite - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Respite - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Respite - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Nursing Support Services	# of Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Nurse - Staff					$0.00	
Staff Benefits						
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)						
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (*e.g.,* CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of Miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					$0.00	

Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of Trips	Cost per Trip			
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00
Taxi/Uber					$0.00
Taxes					
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>					$0.00
Nurse - Vendor/Contractor	# of Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		
Nurse - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00

Housing Support Services				Budget Total
Housing Support Services	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	*Max 8 hr/day; 175 hrs/yr*	
				$0.00

Live-In Caregiver Support				Budget Total
Live-In Caregiver Support	# of Months	Monthly amount	The total monthly additional cost of rent and food as determined by the Department of HUD and the USDA monthly food plan at the 2 person moderate plan level. In addition the total monthly cost for rent and food must adhere to the DDA's reasonable and customary standards.	
				$0.00

Individual and Family Directed Goods & Services (IFDGS)			Budget Total
Allowable Goods and Services			
Item:		[All requests for IFDGS must also be made using the IFDGS Request Form.]()	
Item:			
Item:			
Item:			
Item:			
Item:			

Day to Day Administrator	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	# of Weeks			
Day to Day Administrator - Staff				Requests for Day to Day Administrator do not need to be requested using the IFDGS request form. However, the PCP should note why an adminstrator is needed.	$0.00	
Staff Benefits						**Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS**
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe (Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)						
Training	# of Staff	Cost per staff				
Training (*e.g.,* CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Taxes						
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>					$0.00	
Day to Day Administrator - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks			

Day to Day Administrator - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00
Staff Recruitment and Advertising		*Maximum of $500; this amount is included in the PCP Service Authorization*			
Behavioral Support Services					Budget Total
Milestones	# of Milestones	Rate			
Behavioral Assessment (Milestone)			Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		$0.00
Behavioral Plan (Milestone)					$0.00
	# of Hours	Rate per Hour			
Behavioral Consultation (Hour)					$0.00
Brief Support Implementation Services (Hour)					$0.00
Meaningful Day Services					

Employment Services (Previously Supported Employment)	# of Milestones	Rate	Discovery is a time-limited comprehensive, person-centered, and community-based employment planning support service to assist the participant to identify the participant's abilities, conditions, and interests. **Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.**	Budget Total
Discovery - Milestone #1				$0.00
Discovery - Milestone #2				$0.00
Discovery - Milestone #3				$0.00
Self- Employment Development Supports	# of Milestones	Rate	**Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.**	Budget Total
Self-Employment Development Milestone			Business and Marketing Plan	$0.00

Job Development	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks	Up to 90 hours per year. Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.	Budget Total
					$0.00
Ongoing Job Supports					Budget Total
	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	# of Weeks		
Ongoing Job Supports - Staff					$0.00
Staff Benefits					
Health Benefits					
PTO Benefits					
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)					
Other Benefits - list					
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)					
Training	# of Staff	Fee per staff			
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff		
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks		
Mileage					$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of trips	Cost per trip			
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00

Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS

Taxi/Uber					$0.00	
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>					$0.00	
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks			
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Ongoing Job Supports - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Follow Along Supports	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Follow Along Supports - Staff					$0.00	
Staff Benefits						**Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS**
Health Benefits						
PTO Benefits						
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)						
Other Benefits - list						
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)						
Training	# of Staff	Fee per staff				
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00	
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff			
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks			
Mileage					$0.00	
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement, Cont.	# of trips	Cost per trip				
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00	
Taxi/Uber					$0.00	
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)*>					$0.00	
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor	Rate per Month		# of Months			
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Follow Along Supports - Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
	# Months	Rate per Month			Budget Total	
Co-Worker Supports			No more than 3 months. Services must be completed by a DDA Licensed Provider.		$0.00	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Employment Services Vendor/Contractor					$0.00	
Community Development Services (CDS)	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total	
CDS - Staff					$0.00	
CDS - Staff					$0.00	
CDS - Staff					$0.00	
CDS - Staff					$0.00	
CDS - Staff					$0.00	
Staff Benefits						**Add any Benefits Notes that May be Helpful for the team or FMCS**
Health Benefits						

PTO Benefits					
Holiday Pay Differential (for hours worked)					
Other Benefits - list					
Sick and Safe(Applicable to Mont. Co. **ONLY**)					
Training	# of Staff	Fee per staff			
Training (e.g., CPR/1st Aid/CMT/etc. as applicable)					$0.00
Staff Paid Hours for Training	# of Staff	Rate per Hour	Hours per Staff		
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Wages for Training					$0.00
Staff Transportation/Travel Reimbursement	# of miles	Mileage Rate	# of Weeks		
Mileage					$0.00
	# of trips	Cost per trip			
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00
Taxi/Uber					$0.00
Taxes - *(indicate percentage)>*					$0.00
Community Development Vendor/Contractor	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		
Community Development Vendor/Contractor					$0.00
Community Development Vendor/Contractor					$0.00
Day Habilitation	# Hours per Week	Rate per Hour	# of Weeks		Budget Total
Day Habilitation Vendor/Contractor					$0.00
Day Habilitation Vendor/Contractor					$0.00
Family & Participant Support/Training		# of Hours	Hourly Rate		Budget Total
Family and Peer Mentoring Supports				*Up to 8 hours per day*	$0.00
Family Caregiver Training & Empowerment				*Up to $500 per participant per year*	$0.00
Participant Education, Training and Advocacy - hours				*Up 10 hours per year*	$0.00
Participant Education, Training and Advocacy - fees		*Up to $500 per participant per year*			

Health and Adaptations			
Assistive Technology & Services			Budget Total
Item:			
Item:			
Maintenance:			
Remote Support Services			Budget Total
Item:			
Item:			
Maintenance			
Environmental Assessment			Budget Total
Assessment:			
Environmental Modification			Budget Total

Item:		*Limit is $50,000 every three years unless otherwise authorized by the DDA*	
Item:			
Item:			

Vehicle Modification			Budget Total
Item:		*Limit is $15,000 within a 10-year period*	
Maintenance:			

Household Start-Up

Transition Service		Budget Total
Moving Expense	*An itemized list must be attached and the total cannot exceed $5000 over a lifetime*	
Set-Up fees; non-refundable deposits *(utility/service access)*		
Furniture/kitchen/accessories		

Transportation

Transportation - Independent	Cost/Day	# of Day			Budget Total
Orientation Services for visual impairments					$0.00
Travel Training					$0.00
	Rate per Trip	# of Trips per Week	# of Weeks	*For stand-alone Transportation only with in community*	
Public (Maryland Mass Transit Administration)					$0.00
Taxi/Uber/Lyft					$0.00
	Rate per Mile	# of Miles per Week	# of Weeks		
Other-mileage					$0.00

Other Services - With DDA Approval

			Budget Total
Item:			
Item:			
Item:			

TOTAL	$0.00

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

I am the sister/legal guardian of Yvette M. Gierczak. She receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on Yvette's independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of Yvette's approved plan and budget based on Yvette's assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Yvette's needs should be available to Yvette's staff.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, Yvette has been able to access the funds from her DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in Yvette's person-centered plan.

Don't leave me behind!

Yvette M. Gierczak and Shannon L. Marriott (Guardian)


MOZZ STICKS
Starters
Onion Rings 6.99
Breaded thick-cut onion rings fried golden brown. (560 Calories)
Loaded Waffle Fries 14.09
Crispy waffle fries loaded up with melted Cheddar cheese sauce, bacon and sour cream. (1080 Calories)
Chicken Quesadilla 12.49
Grilled fajita chicken, Monterey Jack and
Wings
NEW
6 wings, 11.49
12 wings, 18.49
Boneless Wings
6 wings, 10.49

I am Caroline. I live in Rockville (District #17) and I Self-Direct My DDA Services

I live in my own apartment with a Housing Choice Voucher.
Self-Direction means:

- I choose who supports me to live independently, during the day, and overnight.
- It's MY place—I run the show.
- A Day to Day Administrator, paid through IFDGS, can help me with my appointments, paperwork, money management, budgeting, and household management.
- Here I am signing my lease!

When I was in middle school, I learned that I like to operate a sewing machine. My team and I developed a small business and I sew bags and other items that I sell at community fairs and festivals.

Self-Direction Means:

- I have the support I need to design and make my products
- A Day to Day Administrator, paid through IFDGS, helps me with contracts and other business items like paying sales tax

I love being part of the world and my community. Self-Direction means I choose where I go and what I do every day. IFDGS means I can go to art and music classes. I also like hanging out in parks and stuff.

carolinedesigns@yahoo.com

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Robert, now 38,

- has support of the DDA Community Pathways Waiver, Self-Directed Services.
- Lives in an apartment in Rockville Town Center, which is in District 17. Location provides great public transportation options.
- Works part-time at Goodwill in Rockville, where he has been working since August 2020.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-**Direction funding helps me to ...**

- Select support staff and vendors, who help me to live successfully in my community.
- Work out weekly with Spirit Club for my mental and physical health.
- Participate in weekly and daily programs with other self-advocates with support from Integrated Living Opportunities (ilonow.org).
- Work with staff to maintain my apartment, do cooking, and do tasks in my community.
- Work with a Day-to-Day Administrator to manage my current and long term services.
- Work with Housing Support Specialist, who helped in moving to a new place this year.

Reda Sheinberg
Robert's Mother
501 King Farm Blvd, Apt 101
Rockville, MD 20850
301-385-5889
Reda.Sheinberg@gmail.com

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

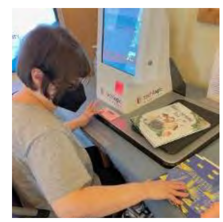
I'm the boss! I self-direct!

About Me

I was born very early at 24 weeks. I have Cerebral Palsy, Hydrocephalus, Communication Disorders, and Cognitive disorders. I entered Self Direction directly from High School in 2012. I am now 33 years old. Self-Direction has been a life saver for me and my family! The Self -Direction Act of 2022 advanced my ability to design my services to address my specific needs. I can hire my support personnel and train them to understand me. I live in my own home next to my parents. I use a housing voucher. I love having my own home, but I need 24/7 supports to keep me safe.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

-train my employees so they have a greater understanding of how to support me.
-allows me to retain our employees with a competitive salary and benefit package.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS)

-allows me to see the dentist with reimbursement from **IDFGS** because the Healthy Smiles program is no longer available to me. All the dentists in my area have stopped accepting this program because Medicaid reimbursement is poor.

-allows me to hire a **Day-to-Day Administrator** to support my family to manage my home. This is the beginning of working toward **sustainability of my program once my parents are no longer able to help me.**

-allows me to attend classes which help to develop my skills and improve my function in the community. Music and Horse Riding help me manage behavior issues I struggle with.

Jennifer Bowers

20242 Huntington Ct.

Hagerstown MD

21742

mkbowers3@verizon.net

SDAN

Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

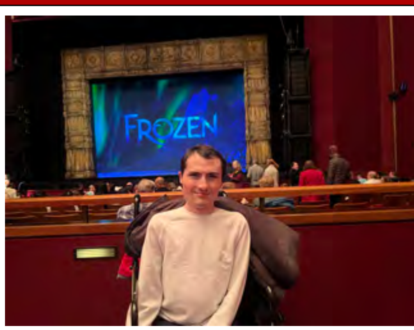
I’m the boss!

I self-direct!

My name is Alex, and I suffer from a very rare disease called Riboflavin Transporter Deficicency Syndrome, Type 2 (RTD2). Since birth, RTD2 has slowly robbed me of my ability to walk, see, hear and to use my arms and hands. But that has not stopped me from setting goals and reaching my potential. With daily support from my family and support staff, I have been able to achieve two college degrees (graduating summa cum laude for both), win art competitions, direct plays, write for my college newspaper and play music in my own band. I am currently a junior at UMBC where I am majoring in Social Work. I am passionate about advocacy for diversity and inclusion and I want to make a big difference in the world by working with vulnerable populations and individuals with disabilities to improve their lives and the quality of services they receive.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

- Attend college so I can reach my potential and make a difference in the lives of other people with disabilities.
- Provide me with people who can help faciliatate communication and conversations so that I can make friends and belong to a community of peers.
- Pursue my passion for art, music and theatre.
- Assist me in the community so that I can be more independent and less isolated.
- Improve my quality of life by assisting me with tasks I cannot do myself physically while allowing me to live a life of dignity.
- Allow me to hire family members who I trust to provide me with the best quality of care and who I know love me and will always be looking out for my best interests.

Alexander Fitzgerald
3200 Daisy Road,
Woodbine, MD 21797
Alexander.fitzgerald@yahoo.com

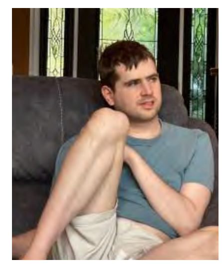
I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

I love self-directing my DDA Waiver Services because everyday can be unique and suited to my needs.

When I have good support from people who know me well, the world is a wonderful place!

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!



My DDA Self-**Direction funding helps me to ...**

Find new places and things to do in my community when the timing is right for me.

Stay healthy by hiking and going to the gym.

Talk to different people and work on my communication skills.

Get better at doing things myself.

Hire great staff to help me do all those things!

Al Wopat
905 Monkton Raod
Monkton, Md 211111
alwopat@icloud.com

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Elaine, now 39

***Has support of DDA Community Pathways Waiver, Self-Directed Services.**

***Lives in her own place in Germantown, close to the town center and transit station.**

***Works part-time at Rental Assistance in Rockville & Red Wiggler Farm in Germantown.**

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

Live in my own place in the community. I moved out of my family home in 2014!

Have support when needed on my jobs.

My staff make it possible for me to be an active participant in my community. For example, I am a member of interPLAY orchestra at Strathmore, swim and bowl with Special Olympics, participate in classes and activities with Potomac Community Resources (PCR), take classes at VisArts, attend Friends Unlimited in Clarksburg, and I am active in my church.

Hire a Day-to-Day Administrator to help me and prepare for the day when my mom isn't able to do all she does now.

Debbie Fickenscher
(Elaine's Mom)
415 Russell Avenue Unit 1118
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

301-503-2344

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Self-Direction is important to me because...
Before Self-Directed Services, I lived in group homes for a few years, where:

- I felt unsafe and had negative interactions with some of my roommates who had dangerous behavior
- I never knew who was going to be taking care of me each day, or what I would be doing each day
- I was not able to plan my own events or activities
- I was not properly able to take care of my diet and exercise for diabetes
- My roommate and staff were often mean to me
- I had to go to lots of places that I did not need/want to go to because that is where my roommates were going

Self-Direction has greatly improved my life and made me more happy!

Choice and control of my DDA services matter to me!
Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to...

- Hire my own staff, which now can include family, making me feel safe and secure
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life. This year, it covered:
    - Vital diabetes monitoring (not covered by insurance for type 2 diabetes) giving me feedback I needed
    - Gym visits and classes which keep my diabetes under control and help me socialize; without IDFGS my diabetes management would have continued to decline.
    - Montgomery College Challenge Program which has renewed my interest in academics and has me feel worthy with the opportunity to be more knowledgeable (this term about the Watershed and improved writing skills)
- Live in my own home with my parents, where I'm happy to have the support of caring Personal Support Staff
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget
- Cover POV mileage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go
- Participate in community events, including volunteering and coming to Annapolis to watch the Senate, House, and Governor Moore in action
- Pay for behavioral support services

Daniel "Danny Manny" Zwi
Age 25

Leslie Zwi (Mom)
1017 Brice Road
Rockville, MD 20852
301-789-8894
lesliezwimail@gmail.com

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Self-Direction is important to me because…

- I lived in a group home for many years where I cried often and felt unsafe.
- I never knew who was going to be taking care of me each day.
- I was not able to see my girlfriend when I wanted.
- I was not able to plan my own events or activities.
- Often, I did not have lights in my bedroom, toilet tissue in my bathroom, or milk for my morning cereal!
- My roommate and staff were often mean to me.

…I was neglected, abused, and no one cared.

Self-Direction has greatly improved my life and made me happy!

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to …

- Decide how to spend my DDA Budget.
- Hire my own staff, which now can include family, making me feel safe and secure.
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life. This year, it covered vital extensive dental services (not covered by insurance); without IDFGS my oral health would have continued to decline.
- Live in my own home where I'm happy to have the support of caring Personal Support Staff.
- Participate in community events, and social clubs.
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget.
- Pay for behavioral support services.
- Attend Camp Fairlee Manor in the summer so that I may enjoy a vacation with my peers.
- cover POV milage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go.
- Pay for CDS day program, so that I can learn life skills and enjoy comradery.

Ryan Gerhold
Age 38
Debbie Hamann (Mom)
41710 Mattingly St.
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-717-2211
debbiehamannrf@gmail.com

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Self-Direction is important to me because…

- It allows me to be more independent because I can hire my own staff that I'm comfortable being with.
- Before I self-directed I attended a local day program, but often, my services were canceled due to lack of staff. With self-direction my mother can be my back-up staff when my staff is unavailable.
- Self-direction allows me the opportunity to select where I would like to volunteer, such as Ann Marie Gardens and Sotterley Farm, which are located near my home.
- Self-direction also allows me to have my support staff come to my home where I am comfortable, and where we work on activities such as puzzles, crafts, and games. They help me work on my activities of daily living.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to …

- Decide how to spend my DDA Budget.
- Hire my family as staff.
- Use my unallocated budget funds for Individual Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS) on things that enhance my life such as gym fees, non-Covered dental expenses.
- Participate in community events, and social clubs.
- Fund a support broker to manage my budget.
- Attend Camp Fairlee Manor in the summer so that I may enjoy a vacation with my friends.
- Cover mileage for my support staff so they can take me places I want to go.

Wanda Morgan
Age 42
25425 Sotterly Rd
Hollywood, MD 20636
301-717-2211
Wanda_7018@yahoo.com

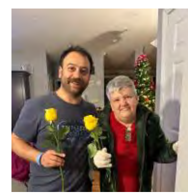
I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH – GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352.

We are in opposition to any provision that alters the mandates of The Self-Direction of 2022.

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

Preserving Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) Matters to Me!



My DDA Self-**Direction funding helps me to ...**

I have been self directing since August 2022. My mom died in 2017 and I moved to a group home for 3 years. I moved to my sister's home in 2022 to be happier because my family was not happy at the group home due to changes there. Now, I have staff and family that care very well for me and know that I am happy and safe. I can be close to my nieces, nephew, sister, brother in law and my cats. I am able to be in the community daily and work on life skills. My dad just died on January 19, 2024, so it is even more important that my self direction IFDGS continues. My sister has had to make many adjustments to continue to care for me each day and it is important that my situation stays unaltered because we have had too much change and sadness recently.

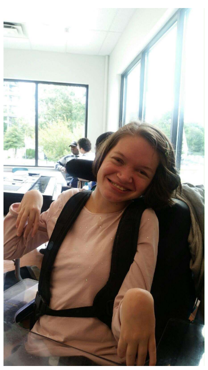
Yvette Gierczak
Perry Hall, MD 21128
yvettesds@yahoo.com
410-615-5306

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

SB 362 Unfavorable Testimony by Beth Gude.pdf
Uploaded by: Beth Gude
Position: UNF

Testimony Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB0362 – Unfavorable
February 29, 2024
Presented by Beth Gude

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about an issue of great importance to me and my daughter, Caroline. I am a member of the Self Directed Advocacy Network Board (SDAN) but am here today to speak to you as Caroline's mother. I am here to ask that you remove any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 & SECTION 7-409 from the BRFA which repeals important provisions of the 2022 Self-Direction Act thus restricting access to her DDA budget, which is developed based on her support needs after an intensive person-centered planning process.



Caroline lives in an apartment in Rockville, using a Housing Choice Voucher. She is an active, funny, engaging person who is dependent upon others for everything – everything that you do in life, from getting up until going to bed at night – must be done for Caroline to ensure her health, safety, community inclusion and happiness. She does not recognize danger and would not be able to call for help if she did. She must be re-positioned every 2 hours to avoid skin break-down and infection. She does, however, have her own business, and is definite in her life choices - communicating with accessibility switches, communication apps and body language.

Caroline has been self-directing her DDA services for about 8 years. She uses the same person-centered planning process as her peers, whether they use traditional or self-directed services. Services, such as Personal Support hours, are comprised of a "brick" which includes costs for direct care staff, employment related expenses, training, transportation, program support and administrative expense.

One category of services is IFDGS – Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services. This is self-direction's blanket term for Program and Administrative costs - I have attached a DDA document which explains how IFDGS may or may not be used. Please note the section titled **Day to Day Administrator.** And also note that DDA states **"Funding must come from cost savings in the budget".** This service was added as part of the 2022 SD Act. It became available to participants at the start of this Fiscal year on July 1,2023. Because DDA chose to include this service in the IFDGS category, a return to the proposed $5000. spending cap (already somewhat artificial) is completely unrealistic.

Currently, I, like many other family members, provide this support to Caroline and her team as "natural support". Inclusion of the Day-to-Day Administrator in the SD Act was tremendously exciting as it provides an opportunity to educate and train others to assume the many roles family members take on. It means that self-direction may be sustainable for Caroline even when I am no longer able to manage what is, in essence, a small business with seven employees. The need and urgency is especially relevant as Caroline has never been accepted by traditional providers into their programs.

This section of the BRFA was added without notification, consultation or any form of transparency to those most directly affected. I would offer that a work group of all stakeholders study the issue prior to any changes to the SD Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue which will have a great impact on persons using self-directed services.

Beth Gude
1003 Brice Rd
Rockville, MD 20852

Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services Self-Directed Services
7/1/2023

Below is a tool for people who are self-directing their services and their teams to use to understand what Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) may and may not be requested. This tool is meant to complement DDA's Self Directed Services Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services policy/guidance.

What are IFDGS?

- Services, equipment, activities, or supplies that support people who self-direct
- Help meet listed needs in the PCP
- Help maintain or increase independence
- Cannot be provided through the waiver program or a state plan

There are three categories of IFDGS:

- Recruitment and Advertising
- Day to Day Administrator
- Other Goods and Services

Recruitment and Advertising

- Helps to fund activities that support staff recruitment for jobs
- **Can include:**
    - Making print or electronic flyers for sharing job advertisements
    - Software to create flyers (Adobe, Canva, Vista)
    - Printing physical flyers
    - Staff registries (Indeed.com, Care.com)
- Dedicated funding comes from the detailed service authorization in the Person-Centered Plan (PCP)
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP

Day to Day Administrator

- Direct and non-direct support to the person self-directing
- People can hire an employee or vendor to be the Day to Day Administrator, including relatives, guardians, or legally responsible individuals

- **Can include:**
  - Household management and scheduling
  - Employee scheduling
  - Scheduling appointments
  - Personal money management
- **Exclusions:**
  - The Day to Day Administrator cannot provide any other service at the same time
  - A person's Support Broker cannot be their Day to Day Administrator
  - The Day to Day Administrator cannot work more than 40 hours per week unless authorized by the DDA
- Funding must come from cost savings in the budget
- Must request in an Initial, Annual, or Revised PCP

Other Goods and Services

Included	Not Included
Activities that promote health	Goods and services that compromise health and safety
Fees for programs/activities that promote socialization and independence	Experimental goods or treatments
Small kitchen appliances for independent meal planning	Co-payments for medical devices
Laundry appliances to promote independence and self-care	Over the counter medications or homeopathic services
Sensory and safety items related to disability	Items used solely for entertainment or recreation
Personal electronic devices	Monthly cable television fees or services
Toothbrushes and dental services not covered by insurance	Monthly telephone fees
Weight Loss programs and services	Room and board

Nutritional consultation and supplements	Food
Internet services	Utility charges
Other goods and services that meet standards	Tobacco, alcohol, Marijuana or, illegal drugs
	Vacation expenses
	Vehicle insurance, maintenance, or other transportation-related events
	Clothing, shoes, or other personal items
	Haircuts, nail services, and spa treatments
	Tuition
	Staff bonuses
	Subscriptions
	Training
	Services in hospitals
	Cost of travel, meals, and overnight lodging for staff/family/support
	Service animals
	Exercise rooms, swimming pools, and hottubs
	Fines, debts, legal fees, advocacy fees
	Contribution to savings accounts (including ABLE)
	Country club membership/dues
	Leased/purchased vehicles

Other IFDGS must be requested using the IFDGS Request Form

SB362_MACC_OPP.pdf
Uploaded by: Brad Phillips
Position: UNF

MACC
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

60 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-974-8117

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024

SB 362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, strongly opposes **SB 362**. This legislation would cut the Senator John A. Cade (Cade) Funding Formula and harm community colleges disproportionately by hurting the most vulnerable and underserved college-going population in Maryland. Maryland's community colleges enroll the majority of low-income students, more people of color than all our HBCUs combined, and serve the most underrepresented populations who are seeking to join the middle class. Most of our students are considered nontraditional and are working adults, many with families, and attend part-time, making their journey all the more challenging. Maryland's community colleges are the key to fighting poverty, enhancing equity, preparing a strong workforce, and building thriving communities for all. **In other words, this cut hurts the most vulnerable college-going population in our State.**

The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2024 would result in a permanent "rebasing" of the Cade Funding formula from 29% to 26.5%, resulting in Maryland's 15 Cade-funded community colleges losing $22.6 million in FY 2025, $27 million in FY26, $28 million in FY27, $29 million in FY28, $30 million in FY29, and so on, according to the Department of Legislative Services. Over the next five years alone, the total reduction would be over $136 million during a time when 72% of job openings will require postsecondary education and training.

Maryland's community colleges rely heavily on the State for stable and predictable funding. Yet, since the beginning of the Cade formula in 1996, the State has historically dealt with structural deficits by changing the percentage tie, thereby reducing the policy commitment to fund community colleges at an equitable level of support appropriated to the public four-year institutions. The total difference between the statutory formula amount and the actual amount over the nearly three decades of the formula has resulted in over $164 million being cut from community colleges.

The 2024 BRFA would reduce Cade over the next five years nearly as much as the total amount cut from the formula over the past 27 years. Not only does this cut harm student success, access, and affordability, but it devalues working families at a time when more attention has been properly paid to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all Marylanders. Despite the gains in DEI efforts and the Cade formula over the past two years, the State is reverting to the same old methods of balancing the budget, by reducing support to economically disadvantaged students with the greatest educational needs.

Maryland's community colleges have been striving to make up ground in our funding that occurred during the BRFA of 2011, where achieving the policy goal of 29 percent funding per full-time equivalent student (FTES) was pushed out until 2023. The State has been incrementally returning to the 29 percent tie for 12 years and finally achieved the long-standing policy goal of equitable funding for community colleges.

Achieving that policy goal has accomplished results. Enrollment is up over 8% from last year (the most significant growth of any higher education segment), allowing community colleges to provide more support to students, resulting in more successful completions. Community colleges are producing completers not just in credit programs but also in other workforce credentials such as licensures, certificates, and apprenticeships. We are expanding dual enrollment opportunities to high school students as a direct result of the Blueprint legislation. The BRFA completely separates our funding from what we have been asked to accomplish by the State.

Much has been said about the impact on students, but the cuts to Maryland's community colleges also impact our ability to compete in the higher education labor market, especially during a period when our colleges are implementing collective bargaining. It was only three years ago that SB433/HB173 was enacted, which required all State appropriations that are designated for the general operation of four-year public higher education institutions, specifically including all cost-of-living increases and personnel-related appropriations, to be used in calculating Cade and BCCC's formulas. One of the drivers for increases at our public four-year institutions is the cost-of-living adjustments. However, the formula's "rebasing" prevents community colleges from competing equitably for faculty and staff. All higher education is struggling to attract quality employees, and this permanent reduction makes it even harder for community colleges to attract the talent needed to accomplish our work.

Expecting Maryland's community colleges to accomplish more with less, to improve student completion rates, to close achievement gaps, to shrink workforce shortages, to close the skills gap, to aid displaced, unhoused, disabled, foster, and food insecure students, to waive tuition for dual enrolled students, to expand access to post college and career pathways as outlined in Maryland's Blueprint legislation, to attract talented and quality faculty and staff, all while maintaining quality and accessibility is untenable without State support.

The challenge of reducing economic inequality does not fall at our doorstep alone. It requires support from elected officials to establish equitable funding that leads to student access, affordability, and success. For Maryland to prosper, a high school diploma simply is not enough. Maryland must invest in postsecondary educational opportunities if we are to achieve economic growth for the State and social and economic mobility for our residents. **Accordingly, we respectfully request that you reject the proposed "rebasing" of the Senator John A. Cade Funding formula.**

For questions, please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org).

Testimony.BILL.No.HB0352_SB0362.pdf
Uploaded by: Bruno Galetovic
Position: UNF

Bruno & Isabelle Galetovic
5525 Alta Vista Rd.
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Date: February 28, 2024

Ref: Bill Number: HB0352 or SB0362
The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Bruno Galetovic (for Gael Galetovic)
Position on the bill: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairperson and Esteemed Committee Members,

Have you ever faced the dilemma of trying to run a race with your shoelaces knotted together? This might sound like the beginning of a bad joke, but unfortunately, it's the reality we're confronted with due to the proposed changes in ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409 within HB0352/SB0362. This scenario is akin to our current predicament, where the legislative shoelaces of my son, Gael, and others benefiting from the Self Direction Act of 2022, are being unnecessarily tied.

Keeping the sanctity of the Self Direction Act of 2022 intact, without imposing arbitrary limits on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS), is not just a policy preference—it is an imperative for maintaining the dignity, independence, and empowerment of those it serves. Why should we tether those we aim to empower, limiting their flight to the confines of an invisible cage?

The proposition to cap IFDGS is as counterproductive as equipping a submarine with a screen door. It doesn't protect or serve; it merely hinders growth and diminishes the safety and independence we've fought so hard to achieve. Are we in the business of creating barriers or demolishing them?

Consider this: IFDGS is not about expanding budgets but about allowing us to fully utilize already allocated resources. It's about enabling us to steer our lives within the harbor of our approved funding without arbitrary constraints. Why then, would we choose to anchor those ready and able to sail?

Date: February 28, 2024

Bill Number: HB0352 or SB0362
The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Reflecting on the transformative impact the Self Direction Act has had since its inception, it's clear that any form of cap is not just an ill-fitting accessory but a direct impediment to progress. We've witnessed firsthand the life-changing benefits of self-direction - benefits that extend far beyond the individual to touch the lives of families and communities.

In closing, I urge you not to retreat from the progress we've made towards fostering genuine independence and community integration. The real question before us is whether we want to be remembered for erecting walls or for building bridges that connect us all to a brighter, more inclusive future.

Respectfully,

Bruno Galetovic
(Father and Legal Guardian of Gael Galetovic)

Written Testimony - SB 362 - Budget Reconciliation
Uploaded by: Carol Riley-Alexander
Position: UNF

SENATE BILL 362

Budget & Taxation Committee

Written Testimony – OPPOSITION - Senate Bill 362
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Mr. Paul Edwards, Chairman
Board of Garrett County Commissioners
January 29, 2024

The initial version of the BRFA (HB 352) includes a **21% REDUCTION** in state operating funds for Garrett College! Garrett College is the smallest community college in the state and this cut would decimate the institution and force cuts that would impact the ability of Garrett College to provide two-year and career education to the citizens of Garrett County.

Overall, Governor Moore's budget would reduce state community college operating funding by 5%; however, the distribution of this cut is different for community colleges when applied through a rather complicated community college funding formula.

Facts that need consideration:

- Garrett College enrollment increased 20% in fall 2023.
- Garrett College and the Garrett County Board of Education partner to provide a 50% tuition reduction for High School Dual Enrollment Students-twice the rate required by the state.
- Garrett College is a key component in providing programs required under the Blueprint to Excellence.

While Garrett College would be the most adversely affected community college, this action would create challenges across the entire community college sector. The ability for Garrett College to continue to provide a high-value, low-cost education will be severely challenged.

The proposed budget cuts disproportionately affect four of the most rural, and least prosperous jurisdictions in the state. Surprisingly, only these four community colleges would absorb double-digit percentage cuts to their state aid, as they are the four with the least local resources to make up those reductions.

We urge the Budget & Taxation Committee to restore funding to Garrett College, and all the community colleges affected by the proposed cuts.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration in this very important matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

02.28.24 BRFA SENATE 2024 testimony Montgomery Col
Uploaded by: Christopher Lloyd
Position: UNF

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Testimony of
Christopher Lloyd
President, Montgomery College Student Government Association, Rockville Campus
February 29, 2024

SB 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024
Unfavorable

On behalf of Montgomery College (MC) students, thank you for your support of Maryland's community colleges. Please continue your support by providing **full funding for community colleges** and **rejecting changes to the Cade funding formula outlined in this legislation.**

I serve as the president of the Student Government Association at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. Affordability matters to students. Without affordable tuition, many students, like me, would not be able to attend Montgomery College to earn a degree.

As the representative of **students on MC's Rockville Campus**, we urge you to continue to support funding for our college and reject the changes in this bill.

Thank you.

Senate Budget and Taxation Testimony by Clifford C
Uploaded by: Clifford Coppersmith
Position: UNF

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Testimony by
Dr. Clifford Coppersmith, President
February 29, 2024

SB 362# - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Position: Oppose
****

I am writing to advocate for complete restoration of Cade funding which has been severely impacted by the Governor's Department of Budget and Management's proposed 2025 budget.

The Governor's Budget and Management Office has issued the proposed 2025 budget, which includes historic cuts to community college funding with the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BFRA). As introduced the bill would rebase the Cade formula funding to 26.5%, a historic cut from the full 29%, which was only fully reached within the past two years.

The rationale for these funding cuts was neither based on good policy nor the most recent enrollment data, and in fact will cripple community college efforts to restore enrollment and restore programs for workforce development. These cuts come at a time when MD community colleges have made great progress in increasing enrollment and student success rates, even as we have been called upon to (1) help support the K-12 system through expanding dual enrollment, (2) to address the workforce skills gap by expanding trades-based certifications and producing work-ready graduates, and (3) to mitigate student debt by more efficiently transferring students to four-year schools.

The Cade funding formula established an equitable distribution of funding by linking funding to Maryland four-year institutions, in an attempt to assure quality of community college facilities and programming and adequate staffing for the students we serve. The cuts instituted in this BFRA bill are absolutely devastating and particularly impact rural colleges—especially those on the Eastern Shore—with Cecil, Chesapeake, and Wor-Wic all incurring double digit declines in state funding under this budget proposal. They represent the fourth largest funding cuts in the history of the Cade formula after those of the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic.

For your information and to provide context, I share these additional points:

- The BRFA disproportionately targets community colleges in reducing their percentage tie to the four-year public universities, despite the large population community colleges serve and the unique and vital role these institutions play in localized economic development.

- Due to two prior years of fully-funding the Cade Formula, community college enrollment is increasing. Community colleges are leading higher education with an 8.3% increase; by contrast, public four-year enrollment increases are at about 2%.

- Reducing Cade in a time of enrollment growth stretches funding even more with less support for all students and for the supports that help ensure their success.

P.O. Box 8, Wye Mills, MD 21679 | www.chesapeake.edu | 410-822-5400

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Testimony by
Dr. Clifford Coppersmith, President
February 29, 2024

SB 362# - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Position: Oppose
****

- Despite previous enrollment declines, community colleges have continued to produce more graduates annually, with a 28% increase from the 2009-2010 academic year (the baseline for the beginning of enrollment decline) to the 2021-2022 academic year, the most current year for which data are available.

- Strong and consistent State funding provides the necessary support services to help students complete.

- Community colleges have been asked to close the skills gap in workforce shortages.

- Community colleges have been tasked by Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation with developing College and Career Readiness (CCR) pathways, which by law must be offered at a 25% tuition discount.

- Community colleges provide unmatched opportunities and support for our State's diverse and underserved populations. Therefore, the proposed BRFA cuts disproportionately affect our states most vulnerable individuals and families.

- BRFA reductions would require students to pay more in tuition, which reduces the chance that recent high school students will enroll at all, according to research.

- Affordability remains the biggest barrier to student success, BRFA cuts requiring tuition increases make postsecondary education further out of reach.

- Community colleges compete in a tight academic labor market for skilled faculty and staff, increasing funding for public four-year institutions while reducing the community college Cade calculation harms our ability to compete, directly impacting our ability to attract and retain talent, especially in a time when Collective Bargaining is being implemented for our segment.

I thank you all for your distinguished and long service to our region. I also very much appreciate your support of education and the noble community college mission. Please contact Clifford P. Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College (ccoppersmith@chesapeake.edu) for any questions.

Written Testimony to Senate FEb 28 2024.pdf
Uploaded by: COLETTE JACKSON
Position: UNF

Name: Colette Jackson
Position on SB0362/HB0352: **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: SB0362/HB0352
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

I am a proud parent of an individual who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS). This is disturbing as there has been NO stakeholder survey/input from the SDS recipients and community on the consequences of such an action.

This cap will have a detrimental effect on independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of my daughter's approved plan and budget based on assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for her needs should be available.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, my daughter has been able to access the funds from her DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in her person-centered plan. Dismantling the Act will not only have a negative impact on those serviced, but it will also set a dangerous precedent of arbitrary restrictions without first obtaining feedback from those clients who rely on these services for their health, safety, and quality of life.

PLEASE-**Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact and do not approve this bill in its current form.**

Thank you,

Colette Jackson
Proud Mother of Regina Maria Jackson
Howard County, Maryland Resident
Registered Voter

SB0362_Allegany College of Maryland_OPP_Bambara.pd
Uploaded by: Cynthia Bambara
Position: UNF

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

TESTIMONY
Submitted by
Dr. Cynthia Bambara, President
Allegany College of Maryland

February 29, 2024

BILL: SB0362 (Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024)

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

On behalf of Allegany College of Maryland, I am pleased to offer unfavorable support for SB0362.

The Governor's original budget provided for a 10% increase to Allegany College of Maryland, based on enrollment following the CADE Formula. However, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BFRA), as introduced, would rebase the percentage to 26.5%. The impact of this bill would reduce funding to Allegany College of Maryland by 8%. The easiest way to understand this rebase is to imagine that for every dollar the State provides to public four-year institutions, it currently provides 29 cents to Maryland Community Colleges. The BRFA reduces that to 26.5 cents, yet still provides a dollar to public four-year institutions.

Our request is simple:

- Maintain the 29% funding per FTE and reject all the language in the BRFA.

Our rationale follows:

- Due to the two prior years of fully funding the CADE Formula, enrollment is increasing, with community colleges leading higher education with an 8.3% increase. Public four-year enrollment increase is approximately 2%.
- Reducing CADE in a time of enrollment growth stretches funding even more with less support for all students.
- Community colleges have been asked to close the skills gap in workforce shortages.
- The

The College provides significant economic impact throughout the State and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. This BRFA would create irreputable harm at a time when job training and workforce development is needed the most by our citizens.

- The average associate degree graduate from ACM sees an increase in earnings of $8,300 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Maryland.
- For every dollar spent on their education, students gain $3.70 in lifetime earnings, society gains $2.70 in added state revenue and social savings, and taxpayers gain $13.6 million in added tax revenue and public sector savings.
- On average, our students realize a 22.9 percent return on their investment which is a 13 percent higher ROI than the stock market's 30-year average return.

I would also like to share that while many colleges and universities across the nation are struggling with enrollment, Allegany College of Maryland's enrollment for the Spring 2024 semester continues to be strong and has exceeded our projections. Although not finalized, preliminary numbers for Spring 2024 credit enrollment include:

- An 11.3% increase in headcount and 8.9% in credit hours.
- An 8.9% increase in Allegany County residents.
- A 40% increase in first-time students.
- Continuing Education/Workforce Development experienced record growth in FY23, including an increase in FTE of over 60% from the previous year. We anticipate continued growth through FY24.

On behalf of our entire ACM family of students, alumni, partners, faculty and staff, advocates, and supporters, thank you for your continued investment in our College. We look forward to working with you on this request and ask for an **UNFAVORABLE** position. Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for this legislative position and provide students with every opportunity to be successful.

SB362_AACC_OPP_DLindsay.pdf
Uploaded by: Dawn Lindsay
Position: UNF

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.

SB0362_OCChamber_Thompson_UNF.pdf
Uploaded by: DENNIS RASMUSSEN
Position: UNF

Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce
410-213-0144 info@oceancity.org
oceancity.org 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842

TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN OPPOSITION TO:
SB0362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Before:
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Hearing: 2/29/24 at 1:00 PM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing over 700 regional businesses and job creators, **OPPOSES SB0362 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024.**

This legislation includes historic **cuts to community college funding**, rebasing the CADE formula funding to 26.5% - a cut from the full 29% which was only fully reached within the past two years. Community Colleges are a critical component of workforce development across the State of Maryland, particularly critical in rural areas like ours.

Originally, the CADE Funding formula established an equitable distribution of funding by linking funding to four-year institutions and was established to assure the quality of community colleges for the students we serve. The cuts instituted in this bill are devastating and particularly impact the rural colleges—especially those on the Eastern Shore with Cecil, Chesapeake, and Wor-Wic all incurring double-digit declines in State funding under this budget proposal. Wor-Wic' s allocation is dropping a full 11% from last year; Cecil and Chesapeake at -13% and -10%, respectively. **These proposed cuts are permanent and ongoing.** They represent the fourth largest funding reductions in the history of the CADE Formula, after those of the Great Recession and the COVID pandemic.

We urge reinstatement of full CADE funding for Maryland community colleges for the following reasons:

- Reducing the CADE formula in a time of enrollment growth stretches funding resulting in less support for all students.
- Recovering from pandemic enrollment declines, Community Colleges have produced more graduates annually, with a 28% increase from 2009-10 (baseline for the beginning of enrollment decline) to 2021-22, the most current year available.
- Community Colleges have been relied upon to close the skills gap in workforce shortages.
- Community Colleges have been tasked with post-college and career readiness pathways through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation, of which they are already receiving only 75% of the full tuition costs.
- The actions that are included in this legislation impact students who are the most vulnerable and are struggling to succeed.
- The reduction proposed in this legislation would require students to pay more in tuition, which reduces the chance that recent high school students will enroll at all, according to research.
- Affordability remains the biggest barrier to student success, this only makes postsecondary education further out of reach.
- Community Colleges compete in the same academic labor market for skilled faculty and staff yet increases in the cost of living for our public four-year institutions that are not also included in our Cade calculation harm our ability to compete, directly impacting our ability to pay our employees, especially in a time when Collective Bargaining is being implemented for our segment.

The Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE COMMITTEE REPORT for SB0362** and request reinstatement of full CADE funding for community colleges in Maryland. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144, or Dennis F. Rasmussen, dfr@rasmussengrp.net at 410-303-4658 should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thompson
Executive Director
amy@oceancity.org

Joe Schanno
Legislative Committee Chair
joe.schanno@gmail.com

SB0362 testimony- unfavorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Ellen Jennings
Position: UNF

February 28, 2024

Dear Senators,

I’m writing to ask that you **leave intact all provisions of The Self-Direction Act of 2022.** Instead of making changes to this Act through SB0362, I ask that the Senate **institute a workgroup** to study the utilization of funds in the DDA's self-direction model as compared to the provider-manager/traditional model. These two models are very different and must be understood as such.

My adult son with autism, Nicholas, relies on Self-Directed Services. Because of them, he’s able to live in an apartment with supports. Because of them, he’s able to participate in a work program at Wheaton Regional Stables. Without them, he would have to live at his parent's home or in a group home. As a 29-year-old guy, this isn’t what he wants. As a 60-something parent, this isn’t what I want (or would be able to sustain) either.

To offer more detail, if Self-Directed Services were to be changed by SB0362, Nick would no longer be able to pay someone to administrate his support services on a day-to-day basis (which he's clearly unable to do on his own). Without this day-to-day administration, it would be impossible to hire, train, schedule, and coordinate his staff, work out his calendar of activities, arrange transportation, make appointments, sign up for programs, schedule his chores, etc. It would also not be possible for him to participate in a number of activities, including his Wheaton Regional Stables work program, that he loves and give his life purpose and meaning.

Nick is a guy who enthusiastically participates in Special Olympics, ArtStream theater (for individuals with disabilities), karate, social programs, church choir, and friendships. He wants to remain part of the downtown Rockville community where he currently lives.

Again, I ask that you please **leave intact all provisions of The Self-Direction Act of 2022.** Instead of making changes to this Act through SB0362, I encourage you and your colleagues to **institute a workgroup** to study the utilization of funds in the DDA's self-direction model as compared to the provider-manager/traditional model.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jennings
4 Parkside Rd
Silver Spring, MD
20910
301-404-0893
ellenjennings@yahoo.com

SB0362-SunshineProjects.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Halm
Position: UNF

SB0362 -Sunshine Projects - https://www.sunshineprojects.org/

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Writing to you today are Elma Galimba and Emily Halm, both proud to be associated with Sunshine Projects, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in leading independent and fulfilling lives. Through a diverse range of educational classes and thorough engagement, we strive to empower our members to achieve their fullest potential every day.

As passionate advocates for individuals with IDD, we are compelled to stress the critical role of maintaining a budget to sustain self-direction through programs like Sunshine Projects. These programs play a vital role in providing essential support, enrichment, and opportunities for individuals with IDD to thrive and lead independent lives.

Effective budget management is not only essential for the financial stability of organizations like Sunshine Projects, but also for ensuring the continuity and accessibility of the self-direct services they provide. By carefully allocating resources and managing expenses, we can ensure that these programs remain operational and accessible to those who rely on them most.

A well-maintained budget enables organizations like Sunshine Projects to cover essential costs such as staffing, facility maintenance, materials, and program development, while also allowing for innovation, growth, and expansion. It serves as a foundation for sustainability, enabling these programs to weather challenges, adapt to changing needs, and continue making a positive impact in the lives of individuals with IDD and their families.

Furthermore, budgeting should prioritize the needs and aspirations of individuals with IDD, ensuring that resources are allocated in a way that maximizes their participation, growth, empowerment, and independence. Because of SDAN, it is essential to listen to their voices, involve them in decision-making processes, and tailor programs to meet their unique strengths, interests, and goals.

In conclusion, we urge policymakers, donors, and community members to recognize the critical importance of maintaining a budget to support self-direction through programs like Sunshine Projects. By doing so, we can ensure that individuals with IDD continue to have access to the life-enriching opportunities and support they need to strive and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting individuals with IDD and the programs that serve them.

Sincerely,

Elma Galimba (Founder) and Emily Halm (Community Relations Director)

Contact Information - 301.787.3990 // emily@sunshineprojects.org + elma@sunshineprojects.org

X

Elma Galimba
Founder

X

Emily Halm
Community Relations Director

Sunshine Projects

Inspire and be Inspired

About Us!

Sunshine Projects is committed to enhancing the lives of special needs adults in the greater DC area as well as virtually nationwide, including Hawaii. Our mission revolves around providing exceptional enrichment and leadership development opportunities to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through a comprehensive array of educational and creative programs, we empower these individuals to create and shape their own unique experiences every day.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.SUNSHINEPROJECTS.ORG

Sunshine Projects
Inspire and Be Inspired

MD Catholic Conference_SB 362 - Sellinger Reductio

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: UNF

MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

February 29, 2024

SB 362
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
(Joseph A. Sellinger Formula for Aid to Non–Public Institutions of Higher Education)

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: UNFAVORABLE

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in OPPOSTION to the significant reduction of the Sellinger Formula for independent colleges and universities proposed in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, Senate Bill 362. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government. We also offer this testimony on behalf of the families of more than 50,000 students served by over 150 PreK-12 Catholic schools in Maryland, many of whom go on to attend the independent colleges and universities subject to the proposed cut.

The thirteen Maryland independent colleges and universities that share in the Sellinger Formula have acted as an important complement to our state's public institutions of higher education, helping to propel Maryland as one of the preeminently educated states in the nation. Since 1970, the Sellinger formula has aided these institutions in that mission and it is absolutely imperative that we continue to support these institutions as a state. They not only help to educate the next generation of Maryland leaders, but act as an important economic incubator for our state. Particularly at a time when Maryland's economy has grown stagnant, these colleges and universities are key to economic incubation and should not have their funding drastically reduced as proposed in this year's Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (SB 362).

More specifically, the Catholic institutions of higher education at Mount St. Mary's University, Notre Dame of Maryland University and Loyola College are an important part of the rich historical tradition of Catholic higher education in Maryland. These institutions provide access to a quality education, which ultimately leads to gainful employment, thus breaking the cycle of poverty plaguing many low-income communities. Pope Francis has stated that the Church should highly value education, leading to gainful employment, as it is through the same that "human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 192). Thus, we urge this committee to reject any cuts or alterations to the Sellinger Formula and restore vital funding to these institutions.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE • ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON • DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON
10 Francis Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1714 • 410.269.1155 • mdcatholic.org

SB0362:HB0352.pdf
Uploaded by: Jay Silverman
Position: UNF

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

My name is Melissa Silverman. I am 41 years old, and I have Down syndrome. I have been on the self-directed waiver since 2007.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on my independence, community inclusion, health, and safety.

I have been a teacher assistant for the past 19 years. Presently, I work at Franklin Elementary School in Reisterstown in the before and after childcare program. I decided, along with my team, that it is important for me to maintain good health and be physically fit. I exercise 6 days a week. I go to the gym and take Bootcamp and BARRE+Recovery. I am the only person with a disability in these classes. I also practice swimming at the gym for the Special Olympics summer games at Towson University.

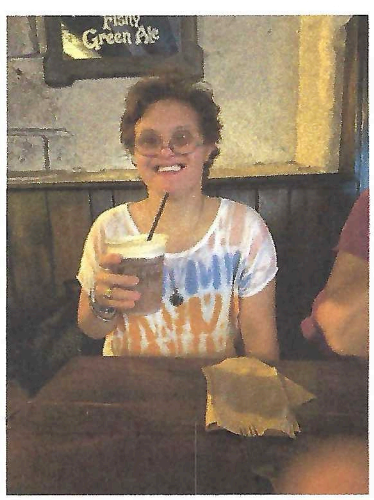
IFDGS is part of my approved plan and budget based on my needs to stay healthy and fit to do my job. Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, I have been able to access the funds from my DDA approved budget to reach the outcomes and goals in my person-centered plan which includes membership to my gym.

Don't leave me behind!

Thank you,

Melissa

Melissa



02.29.24 BRFA SENATE 2024 testimony of Montgomery

Uploaded by: Jean-Claude Lokonon

Position: UNF

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Testimony of
Jean-Claude V. Lokonon
President, Montgomery College Student Government Association
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
February 29, 2024

SB 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024
Unfavorable

On behalf of Montgomery College (MC) students, thank you for your support of Maryland's community colleges. Please continue your support by providing **full funding for community colleges** and **rejecting changes to the Cade funding formula outlined in this legislation.**

I serve as the president of the Student Government Association at Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. I double major in biological sciences and biotechnology. I plan to transfer to earn my degrees and certification, then proceed to medical school. I aspire to pursue a career as a pediatric surgeon in Maryland.

Students need affordability. Without affordable tuition, many students who do not have financial assistance, such as me, would be unable to attend Montgomery College to acquire a degree, live up to their potential, and pursue their ambitions.

As the representative of students on MC's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, we urge you to continue to support funding for our college and reject the changes in this bill.

Thank you.

Stone senate Testimony SB0362.pdf
Uploaded by: Jeneva Stone
Position: UNF

SB0362: BRFA, Article-Health-General Section 7-101 & Section 7-409, 2/28/24
Jeneva Stone, Parent Caregiver, Self-Directed Services
UNFAVORABLE

I'm Jeneva Stone. My son Rob and I testified in favor of the Self-Directed Services Act of 2022. I'm asking you to strike Sections 7-101 & 7-409 from the BRFA, sections that would fundamentally alter this existing Maryland law that supports the community integration needs of people with disabilities. That is, their civil rights under the Olmstead Decision and the ADA.

I'm concerned that the governor has been misled into requesting a change that would work against his vision for an inclusive Maryland. Children and adults with disabilities and complex medical needs—like Rob—are a group that the state consistently leaves behind.

Our families are clustered in self-direction in part because MDH and the DDA leave us little choice: because our children have medical needs, they cannot enroll in any of the traditional provider services along with the friends with whom they attended public school. That is a form of segregation and discrimination. It's either self-direction or care in an institutional setting.

Lifting the IFDGS cap was supposed to level the playing field for Rob, allowing him full access to his own DDA budget so that he, too, could afford enrichment activities and classes that let him socialize with his disabled peers, just as he did in school—and so that he, too, could have his administrative needs met, just like his peers in traditional services. The day-to-day administrator position is a key piece of long-term sustainability for our children, after we are gone.

Don't let the DDA erect more barriers to community for Rob.

02.29.24 SENATE BRFA 2024 Montgomery College Presi

Uploaded by: Jermaine F. Williams

Position: UNF

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 <u>and</u> 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.

Testimony for Senate Delegates.pdf
Uploaded by: John Bamberger
Position: UNF

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

Institute a workgroup to study the utilization of funds in self-direction model as compared to provider-manager/traditional model.

I am a parent/caregiver of **Jonathan Bamberger**, who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model. I am also a proud advocate for my son!

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on Jonathan's independence, community inclusion and health and safety.

IFDGS is part of Jonathan's approved plan and budget based on Jonathan's assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Jonathan's needs should be available to him.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, Jonathan has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person-centered plan.

John Bamberger (Proud Parent, Caregiver and Advocate for Jonathan Bamberger)

Don’t leave Jonathan and others fighting for a higher quality of life and integration into society behind!

My son, Jonathan, is a participant in the Community Pathways program. He has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair, living with various physical and mental challenges and limitations. Before joining this program, Jonathan aged out of school and had limited opportunities to engage with friends and integrate into the community. This program allows him to participate in social and educational activities that enhance his quality of life and allows his skilled caregivers to assist with his complex medical needs. Jonathan is mentally challenged and is unable to manage his own care. The Day-to-Day Administrator services allow his parents and caregivers to coordinate his care, so he gets the proper care he needs. Limiting these services to $5000 is not a data-based solution when considering an individual’s complex needs. I can speak to this as a parent of a child with such needs.

Below are a few points I would like to highlight:

1. Leaving the $5000 limit as proposed in the BFRA will have a **negative** impact our ability to access funding already allocated to Jonathan by DDA, based on his level of need and as allowed by CMS.

2. The Day-to-Day Administrator position has been key to the sustainability of self-direction for Jonathan. He is not able to coordinate the complexity of his care without a lot of support. Examples of assistance provided by the Day-to-Day Administrator include hiring qualified caregivers, arranging opportunities for engagement and integration in the community, coordinating medical appointments and interactions with insurance carriers, ensuring caregivers are paid properly, etc. Unfortunately, I would suggest many people with disabilities in this program have similar needs that will go unmet if funding is limited.

3. Finally, artificially limiting access to these “program” cost components in Jonathan’s budget restricts his access to his community, affects his health and safety, and curtails the sustainability of his program when his family can no longer provide aid.

02.29.24 BRFA SENATE Montgomery College Alumni Ass

Uploaded by: jon pointer

Position: UNF

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Testimony of
Jon Pointer
President, Montgomery College Alumni Association

SB 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024
Unfavorable

Thank you for your support of Maryland's community colleges.

I am an alumnus of Montgomery College (MC) and currently serve as president of the **Montgomery College Alumni Association.** I studied business at MC and earned my associate degree in 1989.

On behalf of the Association, representing Montgomery College's thousands of past students, I ask you to **please fully fund community colleges,** including MC, and **reject any changes to the John R. Cade Community College Funding Formula outlined in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024.**

Montgomery College changed the lives of so many in Montgomery County and across Maryland—including mine. Please continue to invest in community colleges so Montgomery College and other institutions can continue to offer a high quality, affordable education for future alumni like me.

Thank you.

02.29.24 BRFA SENATE 2024 testimony of Montgomery

Uploaded by: Joshua Hayes

Position: UNF

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Testimony of
Joshua Hayes
President, Montgomery College Student Government Association
Germantown Campus
February 29, 2024

SB 362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act 2024
Unfavorable

On behalf of Montgomery College (MC) students, thank you for your support of Maryland's community colleges. Please continue your support by providing **full funding for community colleges** and **rejecting changes to the Cade funding formula outlined in this legislation.**

I serve as the president of the Student Government Association at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus. I study cloud computing and networking technology with plans to transfer to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science. I hope to work as an IT professional in Maryland.

Affordability matters to students. Without affordable tuition, many students, like me, would not be able to attend Montgomery College to earn a degree.

As the representative of students on **MC's Germantown Campus**, we urge you to continue to support funding for our college and reject the changes in this bill.

Thank you.

2024 dda My Story final.pdf
Uploaded by: Karen Bowers
Position: UNF

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

About Me

I was born very early at 24 weeks. I have Cerebral Palsy, Hydrocephalus, Communication Disorders, and Cognitive disorders. I entered Self Direction directly from High School in 2012. I am now 33 years old. Self-Direction has been a life saver for me and my family! The Self -Direction Act of 2022 advanced my ability to design my services to address my specific needs. I can hire my support personnel and train them to understand me. I live in my own home next to my parents. I use a housing voucher. I love having my own home, but I need 24/7 supports to keep me safe.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

-train my employees so they have a greater understanding of how to support me.
-allows me to retain our employees with a competitive salary and benefit package.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFGS)

-allows me to see the dentist with reimbursement from **IDFGS** because the Healthy Smiles program is no longer available to me. All the dentists in my area have stopped accepting this program because Medicaid reimbursement is poor.

- allows me to hire a **Day-to-Day Administrator** to support my family to manage my home. This is the beginning of working toward **sustainability of my program once they are no longer able to help me.**

-allows me to attend classes which help to develop my skills and improve my function in the community. Music and Horse Riding help me manage behavior issues I struggle with.

Jennifer Bowers
20242 Huntington Ct.
Hagerstown MD
21742
mkbowers3@verizon.net

Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

Oral Testimony SB Final Feb 28.pdf
Uploaded by: Karen Bowers
Position: UNF

Oral Testimony
SB0362

Unfavorable

Karen Bowers LCSW-C
Thursday February 29, 2024

My name is Karen Bowers. I live in Hagerstown Md. My daughter Jennifer is 33 and has been self directing for the past 12 years following her exit from HS. Jennifer has multiple severe disabilities. Each plan year the waiver provides a budget for Jennifer based upon her needs which then allows her to be a part of her community and remain safe. The Self Direction Act of 2022 has been a god send for older parents like me as a path towards sustainability of Jennifer's self-directed services as I age or am no longer available to help her to manage the many details of her program. The ability to hire a Day-to-Day Administrator through IFDGS will allow Jen to continue to live in her own home with staffing and venders who are providing person centered support designed by her team. We are currently interviewing to fill the Day-to-Day Administrative support position. This individual will manage Jens 7 employees by doing scheduling, tracking benefits, monitoring employee skills, coordination of education and training for our employees who are CMT certified, household management, scheduling with vendors, and other medical providers.
These are all tasks I currently perform without pay. Over the past twelve years Jen and her team of supports has developed a true person-centered program. When I am gone this will all end if the the availability of the Day-to-Day administrator is eliminated with an arbitrary $5,000 cap of these funds proposed in BRFA. Other individualized services such as classes to help with behavior management goals and dental costs are available with these funds. I'd be happy to provide more details about how blocking access to IFDGS funds would be harmful to Jennifer.

Please:

Leave intact all provisions of The Self Direction Act of 2022. Instead of making changes to this Act through SB0362 I encourage you and your colleagues to institute a workgroup to study the utilization of funds in the DDA's Self Direction model as compared to the provider manager/traditional model.

Thank you,
Karen Bowers PARENT OF JENNIFER Bowers
Hagerstown MD 240-449-0701

SB362_Wilson_Unfavorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Karen Smith Hupp
Position: UNF

La Plata · Leonardtown · Prince Frederick · Regional Hughesville

SB362
Aid to Community Colleges
Yolanda Wilson, President, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report
February 29, 2024

The proposed fiscal year 2025 Maryland state budget includes the fourth-largest cut to community colleges in the history of the Cade Funding formula. Sadly, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) rebases the Cade formula from 29% per FTES to 26.5%. According to the calculations in the BRFA, the College of Southern Maryland would receive a **6.2% reduction** from the previous year and many of our sister community colleges would receive double digit decreases. **The impact on the College of Southern Maryland is more than $1.3 million.** As president of the College of Southern Maryland, I request that the Cade Funding Formula be fully restored for Maryland's community colleges.

The latest National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report, released in September, revealed community colleges are leaders in higher education enrollment growth. Not only did community college enrollment rise nationwide for the first time in more than a decade last Spring – by 8% in Maryland and by 3% at CSM – this trend continues at CSM with each subsequent semester, reflecting CSM's first consistent enrollment increase in five years. CSM has worked diligently in creating opportunities to expand access to CSM, ensure momentum while at CSM, and to bolster mobility for our students. This has included improving workforce programs, offering flexibility in schedules and online courses, and focusing on student retention and intrusive advising. Cutting Cade funding in such a time of growth will stretch the budget further with less funding for more students.

Serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties, the College of Southern Maryland is able to respond nimbly to our 14,329 credit and noncredit students and their success **fairly, efficiently, strategically, and equitably** according to their needs regardless of their campus location because of the support that we receive at our state and county levels. In fact, our students are very fluid, moving between campuses. Almost 45% of students attend two or more locations and another 32% take online classes. CSM has 11 online programs of study, and more than 26,000 enrollments just in online courses. This growth is possible due to the ability to assign resources and costs to a virtual campus tied to all three counties.

Supporting the Maryland Association of Community College's operating request at the state level to fully fund the Cade Funding Formula at 29% funding per FTEs is critical to maintain this momentum for Southern Maryland's students. It is imperative to reject all language in the BRFA, especially cuts in perpetuity. As a community college, student success, academic excellence, and financial and operational efficiency are our core expectations, and we look to the state to fulfill their commitment in fully funding the state's community colleges.

Yolanda S. Wilson
President, College of Southern Maryland

Dear Chair Senator Guzzone and Members of the Budg
Uploaded by: Katherine Cooper
Position: UNF

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.   RE: SB0362   UNFAVORABLE

Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Please Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

Melanie Cooper is our 38 year old daughter and has been a participant who has received DDA Waiver services under Self Direction for 18 years. What a huge blessing it has been in all of our lives and we are grateful. We and Melanie personally testified for the passing of this in 2022!

The changes proposed in this bill are drastic and would reverse a major provision and would allow DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on IFDGS. (Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services). **We believe that the DAY to DAY ADMINISTRATION costs which are presently bunched together with IFDGS should be moved to a special line item in the fiscal management part of the budget, not in IFDGS.** We ask that you not pass this drastic measure without studying its implications for people's lives. For Melanie's 18 years in Self Direction, there was no such compensation for DAY to DAY ADMIN. The work of hiring staff, scheduling shifts, scheduling training, addressing budget issues, meeting with coordinators, nurses and support brokers, ordering supplies and medications, etc. all were done for free. Only since 2023, has there ever been compensation for Administrative hours. It is beyond amazing and is fair. Please do not slash this service. This spending does not add additional funds; it merely allows access to the approved funds within one's budget. Melanie may not be verbal, but she sure is happier, healthier and more included in her community thanks to her gym membership. See pics below

Sincerely, Kathy & Jim and Melanie Cooper Harford County


CYBEX

Chairperson and Members of the Committee.pdf
Uploaded by: Kimberly Scarberry
Position: UNF

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact. Establish a workgroup to study the issues between now and next legislative season.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Nicholas, who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on Nicholas' independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of Nicholas' approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Personal training, volunteering in his community and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Nicholas' needs should be available to him.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct.

Nicholas has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person centered plan.

Please don't leave me behind!

Nick Kim Scarberry

Signed by participant and their support person(s)

I'm the boss! I self-direct!

Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH – GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352. Keep the Self-Direction Act of 2022 intact. Establish a workgroup to study the issues between now and next legislative session.

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

Preserving Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) Matters to Me!

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to ...

go to personal training twice a week. It is great for my osteoporosis, as well as my overall health.

I also received funds this year for a new iPad. My iPad is my voice. With my new iPad, I have a program (Proloquo2Go) that I can push different buttons to say what I want to communicate. For instance, I can let someone know what I want to eat, what activity I want to do, exchange pleasantries, as well as communicate what is bothering me when I'm not feeling well.

Self direction allows me to go out in the community and do things I enjoy.

Nicholas Scarberry
94 Stratton Circle
Elkton, MD 21921
(410)920-2797

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

UNFAVORABLE.SB362.HB352.LauraBogley.MDRTL.pdf
Uploaded by: Laura Bogley
Position: UNF

OPPOSITION STATEMENT
SB362/HB352
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Laura Bogley, JD, Executive Director
Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our members across the state, we strongly object to the appropriation and use of any public funds for the purposes of abortion, abortion providers, abortion training or promotion. Maryland Right to Life supports policy that recognizes the equal value of each human being regardless of the circumstances of their conception.

Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion is not a medical treatment and is never medically necessary. No state law prevents medical intervention in the case of medical emergency or to save the life of the mother. We urge the Governor of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly to immediately cease public funding for abortion under the guise of "healthcare" and to cease the infringement on the people's free exercise of religion and rights of conscience to not participate in abortion funding.

Recent radical enactments of the Maryland General Assembly have completely removed abortion from the spectrum of "healthcare". Because of the *Abortion Care Access Act of 2022*, the state is denying poor women access to care by licensed physicians making abortion unsafe in Maryland. With the unregulated proliferation of chemical "Do-It-Yourself" abortion pills, women are self-administering back-alley style abortions, where they suffer and bleed alone, without examination or care by a doctor. Yet Governor Moore proposes to increase public subsidies to the 2 billion dollar abortion industry.

Subsidizing Corporate Abortion - Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs that utilize public funding for abortion, abortion providers or promotion and other abortion-related activities include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland Assembly for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Public Funding through Maryland Medicaid - The ***Maryland Medical Assistance Program*** and the *Maryland Children's Health Program* (MCHP) are the two primary programs used for publicly funded reimbursements to abortion providers in Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their *Analysis of the FY2022 Maryland Executive Budget,* Maryland taxpayers, through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, are being forced to pay for *elective* abortions. We spent at least **$6.5 million for 9,864 abortions, less than 10 of those abortions were due to rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.**

The state is now circumventing the legislature and the will of the people by using the closed-door regulatory process to allocate **an additional $12 million in public funding** to implement the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022. (See attached MDRTL letter.)

Medical Assistance Expenditures on Abortion Language attached to the Medicaid budget since 1979 authorizes the use of State funds to pay for abortions under specific circumstances. Specifically, a physician or surgeon must certify that, based on his or her professional opinion, the procedure is necessary. Similar language has been attached to the appropriation for **MCHP** since its advent in fiscal 1999.

Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund - Through this fund, Maryland taxpayers are forced to fund unethical biomedical research using embryonic and fetal cell and tissue, which artificially increases the demand for aborted babies and fetal organ harvesting. Abortion providers are legally prohibited from selling aborted baby body parts, but independent investigations have revealed that some abortion clinics altered their abortion methods in order to receive compensation for harvesting and transporting intact human fetal remains, including heads, brains, kidneys, skin and other organs. Some research labs have engaged in "water bag" infanticide methods, in which a living fetal child is delivered in the amniotic sac, transported to research facilities, killed and dissected to increase the useful "shelf-life" of the baby's organs.

Maryland Family Planning Program – In 2019 (HB1272) the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Planned Parenthood Bail-Out" bill to force Maryland taxpayers to provide an additional $3.2 million (plus 4% annual increase) in annual compensation to family planning providers who refused to comply with federal Title X funding requirements. These providers failed to qualify for federal funding after they refused to physically separate their abortion operations from their family planning services.

Community Health Resource Commission - In 2020, the *Community Health Resource Commission* awarded two Covid relief grants to Planned Parenthood in the amount of **$76,895**. Planned Parenthood clinics were exempted from Governor Hogan's closure orders as "essential services”. Delegate Cullison has served as an ex officio member of the Council and has sponsored several bills to expand public funding for the abortion industry particularly in schools.

MDH is Failing Pregnant Women - The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.
- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

Abortion is not Health Care - Abortion is NOT health care and is never medically necessary. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion is the leading cause of death among Black Americans and has become American genocide.

No Public Funding - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

Invest in Life - 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

Funding Restrictions are Constitutional - The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that "*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*", and held that there is "*no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds*."

Pregnancy is not a Disease - The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which involves the purposeful termination of fetal human life. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that both lives can be saved.

Abortion is Black Genocide - Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. It is believed that nearly half of all pregnancies of Black women end in abortion. As a result, Black Americans are no longer the leading minority population, dropping second to the Hispanic population. People of color have long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion by eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in Minority communities. As a result abortion has become the leading killer of Black lives. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide. For more information please see www.BlackGenocide.org .

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and any and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion.

We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.

SB 362_MFN_Oppose_ BRFA 2024.pdf
Uploaded by: Laura Weeldreyer
Position: UNF

MARYLAND
FAMILY
NETWORK

1800 WASHINGTON BLVD, SUITE 445
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230-2344
tel 410.659.7701 fax 410.783.0814

marylandfamilynetwork.org

Testimony Concerning SB 362
"Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024"
Submitted to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024

Position: Oppose

Maryland Family Network (MFN) opposes the provision in SB 362 that would enable the Administration to implement an enrollment freeze in the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS).

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

The 2024 BRFA would essentially repeal the core of legislation enacted by the General Assembly just last year. It would reassert unilateral authority on the part of MSDE to impose an enrollment freeze on CCS and re-establish a wait list.

That is deeply disturbing, given MSDE's history with enrollment freezes and the historically poor performance of RESI, its CCS budget forecaster. Enrollment freezes are profoundly destructive not just to individual families but to CCS as a whole. The last time MSDE imposed an enrollment freeze was in 2011. The program remained closed to many otherwise eligible families until 2018—seven long years later. At the high mark of that period, more than 20,000 children languished on a wait list.

Meanwhile, over the course of three fiscal years (FY 16 – FY 18), MSDE underspent more than $55 million that had been appropriated for CCS by the General Assembly.

MFN respectfully urges the Committee strike page 8 line 25 through page 9 line 23 of SB 362, thereby retaining the General Assembly's direct oversight and maximizing its ability to prevent destructive enrollment freezes in the future.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0362.pdf
Uploaded by: Lisa Dornell
Position: UNF

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB0362/HB0352

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
From: Lisa Dornell
Date: February 28, 2024
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to **SB0362/HB0352**:

Our son John, who was born with *severe* and *multiple disabilities*, receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS). **This cap will have a detrimental effect on our son's community inclusion, health and safety. IFDGS Day-today administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct.**

We are in opposition to DDA's efforts to cap IFDGS funding because of the significant impact this will have on the ability of people like John to pay for an Administrator after we (his parents) die. Legislation *specifically provided* for this important position so that individuals like John, who self-direct their services, will have a designated staff person to fill the administrative role that we, as parents now fill. Capping funding for this position will *effectively eliminate* the possibility of funding this important position.

My husband is elderly and I have had serious health issues which do not bode well for long-term longevity. I say this not to ask for sympathy, but to ask for your understanding and action to protect John's ability to live a healthy, safe and meaningful life after we die.

IFDGS is part of John's approved plan and budget based on his many, assessed support needs to address his diagnoses of spastic quadriplegia, severe intellectual disability, a cortical visual impairment which renders him legally blind and, a seizure disorder. To meet his many needs, John's plan provides for direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration and, more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for his many needs must be available to him as this is the whole point of person-centered plans implemented through self-directed services.

It is so important to note that IFDGS spending does not add additional funds: it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, our son has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person-centered plan.

We have seen the charts and data prepared by the DDA as that agency seeks to erode the benefits that have been provided based on the individual needs of self-directed services participants. **We ask you to please not lose sight of the real people behind the pie charts!** People like our son John, who is now 26 years old, who is confined to a wheelchair, who cannot take himself to the toilet, bathe himself, prepare his own meals, who is totally reliant on others to meet all of his most basic human needs and who will never be able to live independently.

Self-direction is his salvation: The agencies we have approached ***won't take him*** because they are either unwilling or unable to meet his many needs.

As his parents through DDA's self-direction program, we play a critical role as a part of his team. While the self-directed services program has enabled us to hire staff to provide for many of his needs, as John's parents, we help to coordinate John's community development schedules to ensure that he can experience being a part of his community, take care of human resources for the staff to include work schedules, supervision and, training. We coordinate with Fiscal Management Services to approve staffs' stated hours and to ensure that John's staff gets paid in a timely fashion. We ensure that John is appropriately scheduled for his medical appointments and ensure that he is properly transported to all of those appointments.

As long-time Maryland residents and taxpayers, we certainly understand the need for fiscal responsibility particularly during these fraught times. However, as the parents of a person behind the pie charts, we implore you to resist all efforts to balance budgets on the backs of some of the most vulnerable people in our State.

I therefore urge an UNFAVORABLE report on **SB0362/HB0352. Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.**

2.28.24 PDF House IFDGS Testimony Margaret Carter
Uploaded by: Margaret Carter
Position: UNF

RE: SB0362/HB0352

Testimony from Margaret Carter

Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

My daughter Lucy Carter receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model. Along with many other advocates for people who self-direct, I worked to pass the Self-Direction Act *less than two years ago.* Almost everyone on this committee also voted for the Act—which passed the legislature unanimously. As it is now written, the BRFA violates three key elements of the Self-Direction Act.

1. The BRFA specifically allows DDA to place an artificial cap on IFDGS (Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services.)

2. By capping IFDGS the BRFA effectively eliminates another key feature of the Act: the position of a day-to-day administrator dedicated to helping participants continue to self-direct when family members are no longer available to help.(That position is only funded through IFDGS).

3. The BRFA is an attack on Parity, another key feature of the Act. Parity means that people who self-direct must be allocated the same funding they would receive IF they were accessing services from Traditional Providers. By prohibiting participants to allocate their **existing** funding according to the needs outlined in their Person-Centered Plans, it actually places much of their allocated funding out of their reach.

My daughter Lucy has severe epilepsy and significant developmental delays. She suffers multiple seizures every day. She also has osteopenia and has suffered six foot and ankle fractures in the last six years. But thanks to self-direction, she is also living her best life. She has employees who love her. She sees friends and does activities in the community each day. She shops, rides, works out, socializes, and even climbs walls when she is well enough. We dedicate “savings” from her budget to the IFDGS category which enables us to pay for riding lessons, gym memberships, fitness coaching and climbing lessons. Those activities all contribute to her physical and mental health. They engage her mind and make it possible for her to perform essential life tasks, such as being strong enough to get out of the bath tub; and more importantly, to avoid falls through improved strength and balance.

Lucy spends approximately $8,000 a year on IFDGS activities. A cap would likely leave her about $3,000 short.

.However, I am even more concerned about the cap's effect on the day-to-day administrator position which will cease to exist without the ability to dedicate funds toward it.. For the last 15 years I have been providing at least 66 hours of gratuitous supports each week. I have also been gratuitously assisting Lucy to self-direct her plan—which I am happy to do. I help with recruiting, supervising, scheduling and evaluating employees. I make sure her prescriptions are filled promptly, and that she has everything she needs from clothing to food to toilet paper so she can live safely and comfortably at home. I schedule and attend all kinds of appointments—from meetings with her DDA appointed Coordinator of Community Services to a dizzying assortment of medical appointments. In short I make sure that Lucy has the best life possible.

I turn 68 in April. And I know that someday I won't be there to support Lucy; s self-direction program. Since the passage of the Act I have been making plans so that Lucy can continue to self-direct when I am no longer available. The position of a day-to-day administrator is intended to do just that. Other parents like me have been making the same plans. Without that essential support it will be difficult, if not impossible, for Lucy and people like her to continue to self-direct when family members are no longer there to provide supports. I find it stunning that the State could so quickly pull the rug out from under people like Lucy.

Please retain the promise of the Self-Direction Act by preserving the participant's ability to dedicate their ALREADY allocated funding towards the IFDGS category.

BRFA HB0352 or SB0362 Gabler Family Position UNFA
Uploaded by: Martha Gabler
Position: UNF

TESTIMONY

HB0352/SB0362 The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Gabler Family Position, February 27, 2024
UNFAVORABLE

The Gabler Family respectfully requests that this bill not be approved in its current state, and that the following actions be taken:

1. Remove from the BRFA (HB352/SB362) any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 & SECTION 7-409.
2. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact. Do not allow the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to place an arbitrary limit on Individual-Directed and Family-Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) for individuals in the self-directed service model.

My name is Martha Gabler. I am the mother and Legal Guardian of Douglas Gabler, a nonverbal 27-year-old man with severe autism. Douglas has participated in Self-Directed Services under the DDA Community Pathways Waiver since 2017.

We oppose these changes because they would reverse a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022 and would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS). Such a cap would have an adverse impact on Douglas's quality of life. In fact, Douglas is already experiencing havoc and distress.

We have just been told that Douglas's major invoice for Community Development Services, which has always been covered by his Community Development budget allocation, is now going to be transferred to IFDGS for payment! This change was totally unannounced and unexplained. We are mystified and upset because we don't understand how his invoice will be handled under IFDGS. Could his Community Development Services be curtailed because of a cap on IFDGS? The $5,000 proposed cap on IFDGS would eliminate his Community Development Services. How is this possible? Does the state of Maryland want to deny Douglas access to the community in a way that is appropriate and joyful for him?

Every invoice or service that Douglas uses has been scrutinized during the development of his Person-Centered Plan; his budget has then been allocated to specific categories by the DDA, based on his significant and well-documented support needs. The rates for these services are set by DDA. We feel that the budget generated for Douglas should be available to him in as flexible and consistent a format as possible.

Since the Self-Direction Act became effective July 1, 2023, Douglas has been able to use funds from his DDA approved budget to access services that he values and that are in accord with the goals in his Person-Centered Plan. Why take away this from him? Please remove the references to Sections 7-101 and 7-409, and leave the Self Direction Act intact. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The Gabler Family (Martha and Eric Gabler, parents and Legal Guardians of Douglas, and Douglas)
10125 Markham St.
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Cell: 301-641-1943
Martha.gabler@gmail.com

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH – GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352.

We are in opposition to any provision that alters the mandates of The Self-Direction of 2022.

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!
Preserving Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS) Matters to Me!

Douglas Gabler
10125 Markham St.
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Home: 301-681-2716
Email:
Martha.gabler@gmail.com

My DDA Self-Direction funding helps me to …

… be happy, healthy, and engaged! My name is Douglas Gabler. I am 27 years old. I am profoundly nonverbal and have severe autism. Often, I suffer bouts of Self-Injurious Behavior when I bite my hands and punch myself in the face. It's not a pretty picture. Autism is tough.

I am also a cheerful guy who loves to go out and have a good time. I am outdoorsy and love to go hiking. I love my Community Development activities! Every day I go to the Wheaton Public Riding Stable and take care of the horses and grounds. I unload the hay trailer, muck the pastures, and spray water to keep down dust in the riding arena. I need reliable, flexible Self-Directed Services!

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

SB 362 Testimony Budget Reconciliation and Financi

Uploaded by: Mary Bolt

Position: UNF

CECIL COLLEGE

Cecil College
SB 362-Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Dr. Mary Way Bolt, President
Cecil College
February 26, 2024

Position: Oppose

Thank you for accepting testimony on the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2024 which perpetuates the funding inequity for Maryland's community colleges. Funding prior to the formula indicated that from 1980 to 1993 (most recent data available in 1996 when the Cade formula was established), State aid to community college increased by 82% while State aid to public four-year institutions increased by 172%. The total difference between the statutory formula amount and the actual amount over those 27 years is a reduction of $164 million plus another $22 million for fiscal year 2025.

This proposed budget decreases state funding to Cecil College by 13% or $1,058,855, a devasting recommendation that will cause irreparable harm to students who are desperately trying to attain or maintain a middle-class quality of life and earn a living wage. This budget is a not-so-subtle reminder of how the State truly feels about community colleges, as noted in the increased inequity in how the State funds higher education. We are asked to support dual enrolled students, educate healthcare workers, public safety workers, skilled trades, ABE/GED, and many more: all of whom are the Marylanders that we educate to fill Maryland jobs. The State needs to support community colleges and maintain the 29% funding per FTES and reject all the language in the BRFA, especially the cuts in perpetuity.

Please fully restore the Cade funding formula. When fully funding the Cade formula, the State supports equitable access to higher education for all Marylanders. But by rebasing one formula, the State effectively prioritizes one segment over the other. The actions included in the BRFA impact students who are the most vulnerable and are struggling to succeed. This is an issue of equity and inclusion in regard to access to the higher education that results in a better quality of life for our communities and a stronger economic outcome for the state.

I urge you to reject the BRFA and fully restore the Cade funding formula. Maryland is open for business because community colleges are educating the workforce.

Office of the President
One Seahawk Drive • North East, MD 21901 • 410-287-1025 • Fax: 410-287-1610 • www.cecil.edu • mbolt@cecil.edu

02.29.24 BRFA 2024 BOT Montgomery College testimon
Uploaded by: Michael Brintnall
Position: UNF

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.

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

I am a Support Broker and Vendor who provides DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on my clients' independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of my clients' approved plan and budget based on their assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for their needs should be available to them.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023 my clients have been able to access the funds from their DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in their person centered plan.

As a Support Broker I see that the services they receive that are provided by the IFDGS part of the budget are crucial to their social, emotional, and physical well-being. I spoke to a parents whose adult child is Self-Directed. She said that her son "is a recipient of the funding and it is truly a life-enriching blessing. He is on the autism spectrum and struggles with delayed comprehension and social situations. The funding allows him to pursue his passion for art by participating in the program at Art Enables (a wonderful art gallery in Washington, D.C. which specializes in serving artists with disabilities). Without the goods and services funding, his attendance at Art Enables would be greatly reduced. He would not have the opportunity to socialize with fellow artists, collaborate with art professionals and have his art displayed in exhibits and social functions. It has made him a more well-rounded individual who is able to do what he loves in a safe and understanding environment". Another parent told me that IFDGS "[allows her son] to participate in costly activities. He now has a personal trainer and is a member of the YMCA. He is allowed Uber rides as necessary. She said that [IFDGS]… is giving families of considerably low income the opportunities that would have been financially impossible".

I am also a Vendor to Self-Directed participants and provide Social Skills Tutoring and facilitate Social Skills Groups. My clients are able to use their IFDGS funds for my service which helps them learn how to better converse, make friends, and improve their confidence.

IFDGS funds are crucial to the well-being of the Self-Directed participants. Please do not change the amount or restrict the funds.

Signed,

Rachel Greenberg

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2024 dda My Story RobertUpdateIFDGSTestimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Reda Sheinberg
Position: UNF

I'm the boss!
I self-direct!

Robert Sheinberg, 38, flourishes in the Self-Directed Program.

Remove all references to ARTICLE – HEALTH GENERAL Section 7-101 & 7-409 from SB0362 and HB 0352.

We are in opposition to any provision which alters the mandates of The Self-Direction Act of 2022.

Choice & control of my DDA services matter to me!

Thank you for the Self-Direction Act of 2022!

My DDA IFDGS funding helps me to ...

- Hire a Day-to-Day Administrator to manage my services once my Mom & Dad can no longer assist. Both are in their middle 70s.
- Hire a Community Builder to help me with peer relationships and learning skills which allow me to continue to live on my own.
- Hire vendor to help me keep mentally and physically healthy with weekly workouts.

Reda Sheinberg
Robert's Mother
501 King Farm Blvd, Apt 101
Rockville, MD 20850
301-385-5889
Reda.Sheinberg@gmail.com

SDAN
Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc.

SenateTestimonySB0362.pdf
Uploaded by: Reda Sheinberg
Position: UNF

- Bill **SB0362**
  Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

  Institute a workgroup to study the utilization of funds in self-direction model as compared to provider-manager/traditional model.
- **Reda and Marc Sheinberg**
- **POSITION on BILL: UNFAVORABLE**

We are the parents of participant, Robert Sheinberg, **who** receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model. The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverse a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on our son's independence, community inclusion, health and safety.

IFDGS is part of Robert's approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for **his** needs should be available to **him.**

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

Our son currently uses IFDGS funds to pay for a Community Builder who has helped him build his communication and relationship skills which have helped expand his network of friends. He hired a Day-to-Day Administrator to begin to take on some of the tasks we do so that when we are no longer capable (We are both in our mid 70s), there will be someone on his team to step into the role. I should not need to tell you how putting an arbitrary cap on IFDGS will significantly impact my son now and in the future! Indeed, it will similarly negatively impact Self-Direction now and in the future!

Reda and Marc Sheinberg, Reda.sheinberg@gmail.com
501 King Farm Blvd Apt 101, Rockville, Md 20850

Rob Stone Senate testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Robert Stone
Position: UNF

SB0362: BRFA, Article-Health-General Section 7-101 & Section 7-409, 2/28/24
Rob Stone, Person with a Disability, Self-Directed Services
UNFAVORABLE

My name is Rob Stone and I use self-directed services. Dear Gov. Moore, I admire you, but I think you're making a mistake. You don't understand I need my IFDGS funds for my community activities: VisArts, UCR classes, Spirit Club and my music lessons. That's how I hang out with my friends with disabilities.

If I can't see my friends, I will be sad.

Please let me keep my IFDGS funding. Thank you.

Letter - SB 481 (Renters' Rights, etc).pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Taylor

Position: UNF

ROBERT TAYLOR

Salisbury, MD

February 29 (Bill Hearing Date – Judicial Proceedings Comm.)

TO: **Senate Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy, and Environment Committees**

RE: **SB 481 – RENTERS' RIGHTS AND STABILIZATION ACT OF 2024 (First Reader)**

Senate Bill 481 should receive an unfavorable report.

This addresses oral testimony that was presented on February 20 before the House Environment and Taxation and the House Judiciary Committee on the companion (cross-filed) HB 693 by certain persons in support of the bills. Most likely, it will be reiterated either in person or by written statement by the following persons and/or others in support of this bill.

1. *Jacob ("Jake") Day, DHCD Secretary*. Last week, he mentioned that a dozen or so states have a lower limit than Maryland on the amount that a landlord can require as a security deposit – currently 2 months' rent – but Mr. Day did not point out that more than 20 states do not impose any limit on the security deposit. Details are available here:

   https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/chart-security-deposit-limits-state-29020.html

   https://www.rocketlawyer.com/real-estate/landlords/property-management/legal-guide/security-deposit-laws-by-state

   This may be why many states have a lower rate of court eviction filings than Maryland because a higher security deposit tends to eliminate tenants who are unable to pay the rent. This function is especially significant because of the huge number of persons entering the United States unlawfully in recent years.

   Secretary Day also argues that increasing the court filing fees for an eviction proceeding will reduce the number of such cases in the District Courts, most of which are dismissed without eviction ("pay and stay'), citing the much higher court fees in other states with lower eviction-filing rates, such as Alabama. No doubt, a primary reason for this difference is that tenants in those jurisdictions are motivated to avoid the much larger amount that they must pay to avoid eviction and, thus, pay rent as it becomes due at a much higher rate than tenants in Maryland. The so-called serial eviction filing rate in Maryland is the highest in the US according to data by the "Eviction Lab" at Princeton University – see the chart below – and the low court fees that must be paid to avoid eviction are certainly a major factor.

   Prohibiting the landlord from recovering the court fees from a tenant, will negate the effect of the higher filing fees that Mr. Day and others support. Significantly, the Fiscal and Policy Note by the DLS, which expressly disagrees with the Administration's opinion that the bill has minimal or no impact on landlords ("small business"), states in pertinent part (page 13, emphasis added):

Small Business Effect: *<u>Numerous provisions of the bill likely have a meaningful impact on small business landlords.</u>* For example, *<u>landlords filing summary ejectment, tenant holding over, or breach of lease cases can no longer pass on certain imposed surcharges, which are significantly increased by the bill.</u>* Additionally, under certain circumstances, landlords must offer tenants the right of first refusal when desiring to sell a residential rental property, which may extend the overall timeframe for selling the property. *<u>Among other provisions, the bill also reduces the maximum security deposit a landlord may require and extends the process of re-possessing property after a court enters judgment in a landlord's favor.</u>*

2. *<u>Former Attorney General Brian Frosh</u>*. At the House hearing last week, he expressed angst that some landlords file for eviction promptly if their tenants fail to pay rent when it is due, arguing that it is inappropriate to use the courts as a "collection agency." As Mr. Frosh is a member of the Maryland Bar, he surely must be aware that courts function in the same manner for other types of creditors, including stores/merchants that extend credit, banks, credit card companies, mortgage holders, pay-day lenders, contractors, etc. He is distraught that many, possibly most eviction cases end without an actual eviction ("pay and stay"), but that is true of the other cases in which a creditor seeks judicial action for an unpaid loan or other debt – the potential for judgment and seizure of assets, garnishment of pay, etc., results in payment of the debt, and the case is dismissed. If the courts were not available to provide redress for nonpayment of monetary obligations, there would be little if any credit extended by landlords, merchants, banks, etc.

   Mr. Frosh also argues that landlords should not receive the procedural treatment – expedited action - that the courts do not extend to other creditors. But he fails to acknowledge that the landlord-tenant relationship is unique: the tenant has the possession and use (occupancy) of the landlord's property, but the landlord remains liable to the government for property taxes on the leased premises and for payment of other ordinary expenses, such as maintenance, insurance, etc. The presence of a tenant in default makes it difficult if not impossible for a landlord to mortgage, much less sell the property. And it's well recognized that tenants who fail to pay rent when due are likely to cause physical damage in excess of normal "wear and tear" to the premises, often well in excess of the maximum security deposit allowed by current Maryland law.

   The suggestion posited by Mr. Frosh that landlords can, and should have to, recover unpaid rent by the general ("small claims") process is naïve. Tenants that fail to pay rent are typically "judgment proof," and the time that would elapse before obtaining a judgment would enable to tenant to remain in possession for an extended period without paying rent before being evicted.

One wonders if Messrs. Day and Frosh and the others who testified in support of the "Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024" last week have any practical experience as a landlord or realize that private, for-profit landlords provide a very substantial amount of "affordable" rental units, which is especially the case in areas such as the City of Salisbury, where Mr. Day was the mayor for most of the past 8 years, that have a very low median household income. Without that supply, the State would have to subsidize much more affordable rental housing than required now.

FYI – I am neither a landlord nor a representative thereof, but rather a very concerned citizen.

SERIAL EVICTION FILING RATES – public & private, by state

Data from 2010 to 2016 – Source: No Safe Harbor: Eviction Filing in Public Housing (Social Service Review, Volume 97, Number 3 (2023) [University of Chicago Press]

Available here: https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/725777

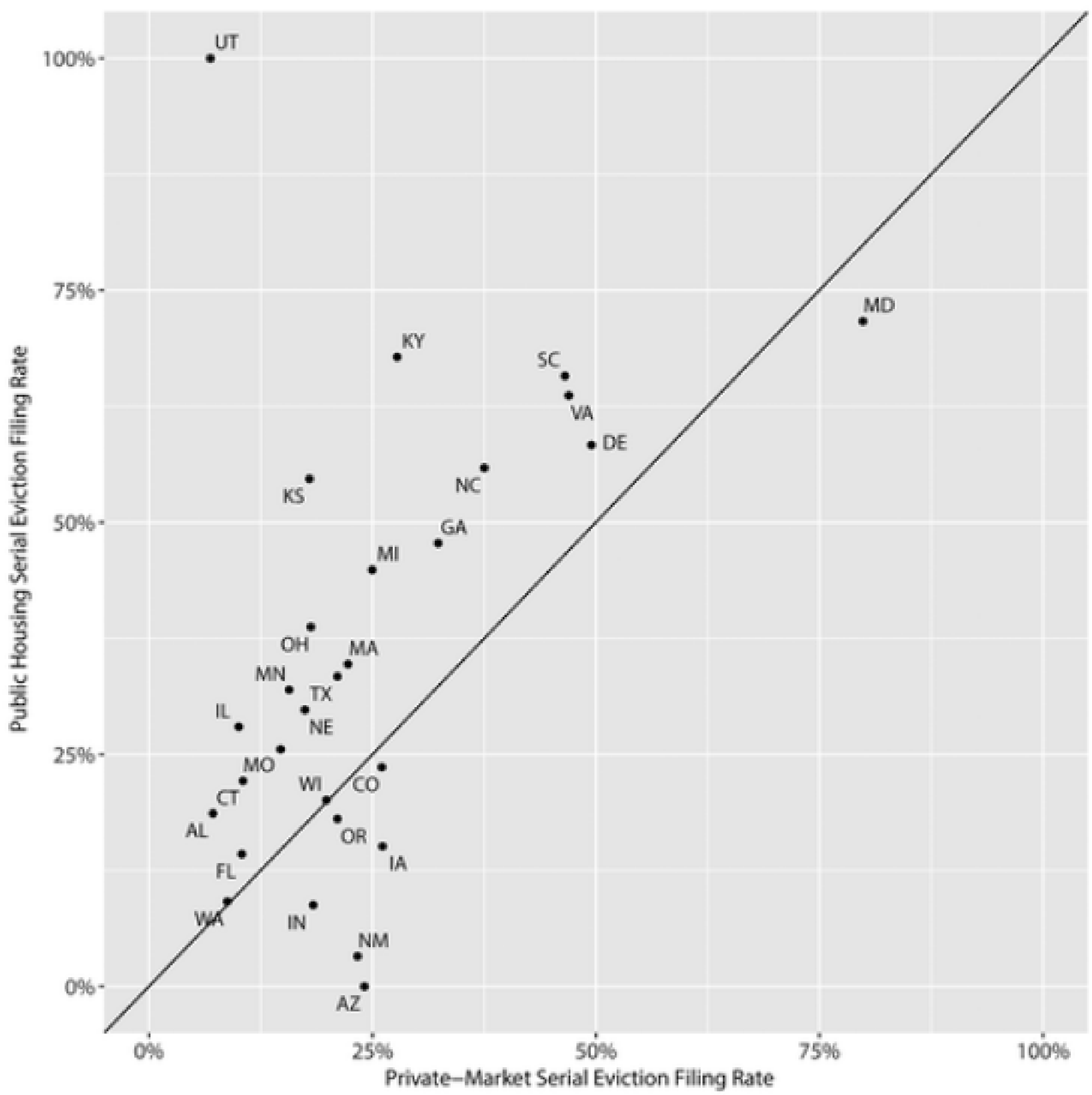


Figure 1. Serial eviction filing rates in public housing and the private market, by state

Senate Testimony SB362 Budget Reconciliation and F

Uploaded by: Sandra Kurtinitis

Position: UNF

SENATE Testimony: SB362 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Submitted by: Sandra L. Kurtinitis, Ph.D. President
Community College of Baltimore County
February 29, 2024

POSITION: Oppose

I write with urgency in support of continued full funding of the John A. CADE Community College Funding Formula. I ask you please not to support the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) that would reduce community college funding to pre-pandemic levels. The CADE formula was written into law in 1996. For 26 years the presidents of the 16 Maryland community colleges lobbied hard to finally achieve full funding in 2022. The CADE Formula was at 17 cents to the dollar when I arrived as CCBC's president in 2005; in 2022 it proudly achieved the full funding of 29 cents to the dollar. **Now the rebased BRFA formula will translate into a $4.5M cut to CCBC.**

After this exhaustive 26 year struggle, we thought we had won more than a momentary hand shake deal. Given the populations we serve, we thought we had been given a promise of the full funding promised by the law. We are struggling to understand how it could be possible that we would now revert back to a grueling process of annual rebasing. If "a dream deferred is a dream denied," as the saying goes, so is a promise! We ask that you resoundingly reject the BRFA. The long overdue, hard won promise of full funding to Maryland's 16 community colleges finally fulfilled, should not be reversed.

Recently, a national organization Opportunity America has referred to community colleges as "The Indispensable Institution". We form a vital link in powering the state's workforce needs. To borrow from TS Eliot, we are the "practical cats" of higher education. Never having received full funding, we grew accustomed to administering our college budgets with two hands and one leg tied behind our backs, although the role we play provides an almost unmatchable return on the state's investment. Last year Maryland's 16 community colleges educated and trained close to 300,000 Marylanders. We awarded 30,000 degrees and credentials and transferred 9,115 community college graduates to the University of Maryland System. Whether we are educating accountants, nurses, welders, cybersecurity experts, construction workers, or dancers and poets, we believe everything we do is workforce development. In addition, because we serve the most vulnerable and challenged populations, we are an integral part not only of the state's workforce system, but of its commitment to its equity agenda. No other sector of higher education can do what we do for Maryland.

It is true that community college enrollments declined over the past few years…as did enrollment at every other two and four year college sector both in Maryland and across the nation. The populations we serve were hardest hit by the long reach of COVID; a pandemic rife with the fear and uncertainty naturally impacted many lives lived at the edge. Now that conditions have normalized, enrollments have begun to grow; statewide community college enrollments increased by 8.3% this past Fall, numbers clearly indicating a predictable, if gradual return to normal.

When we review and implement what we have learned from the pandemic, we will all look a little different when we finally emerge from its grasp. The generous levels of federal stimulus money are indeed gone. But the need is not. In order to be the 21st century community colleges that Maryland needs for its 21st century students for the state's 21st century jobs, we need a competitive level of funding. We need a fully funded CADE Formula to provide the resources to achieve state of the art currency in everything we do: technology, curriculum, facilities, equipment, institutional systems, and faculty and staff expertise, all of these retooled to meet tomorrow.

I beg the Legislature to consider that this is not the time to disinvest in your community colleges. As the nature of work is changing right before our eyes, we intend to play a role in refining and defining the education and training needed to equip and upskill the workforce of tomorrow. We 16 represent a huge economic engine primed to feed the economic well being of our communities and thus the state. A sufficient level of consistent funding promised as long ago as 1996 by a Legislature that believed in the capacity of its community colleges will prove an even greater return on investment.

Every community college leader in Maryland is committed to ensuring that Maryland is equipped with a technologically literate, yet humane citizenry able to thrive and not just survive in the world as a global village. Our challenge is how to refit ourselves to educate and train for the jobs of today and tomorrow. I repeat the injunction that "No other sector of higher education does what we do!" When 82% of our students come from socially and economically vulnerable communities, our work is hard, but we are committed to living our mission because we love our mission. **Please help us do the important work ahead of us by defeating the BRFA and supporting full CADE funding for FY2025 at 29 cents on every dollar the University System receives.** Staying true to the "Promise," I "promise will pay dividends."

2024 Maryland SB362 IFDGS Written -- Steve Bress -
Uploaded by: Steve Bress
Position: UNF

My name is Steve Bress. I have been a Maryland resident for much more than 50 years. I urge you to vote unfavorably on SB 362.

My son is on the DDA's Community Pathways Waiver in Self Directed Services, of which IFDGS is one aspect. The current bill seeks to unnecessarily cut the allowed expenditures under his already approved budget. As I understand it, his budget will not change, but his choices as to what he can do with unused funds ***already allocated to him*** will be impaired.

In his case, he requires a number of nutritional supplements as recommended by his doctors. He also requires more dental work, that is not fully covered by insurance, than his typical peers would.

In theory, currently there is no limit to how much of his unused funds may be used towards this goal. That is not entirely correct. Any request for funding for an IFDGS item over $5,000 must currently both be covered by funds in the budget AND specifically approved by the DDA.

This bill would draw an arbitrary line in the sand as to how much of the money, that is already allocated to his needs, could be used to support his needs and goals under the DDA program. Or to put it another way, if his dental work this year would exceed $5,000, under this bill, he would be out of luck. Perhaps he should only have some repairs done this year, and ignore the pain until the following budget year.

I would like to think that such is not the goal, but that is the unfortunate reality. As such, I would respectfully request that you vote unfavorably on HB 362.

Steve Bress

Germantown, MD

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone SB 362.pdf
Uploaded by: Susan Bosworth
Position: UNF

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 362 (SB0362)
Hearing Scheduled 2/29/2024 at 1 pm

In Opposition

My name is Susan Bosworth from Berlin, MD. I am testifying against this bill, Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024, as it stands, and request that your Committee **AMEND SB362—THE BRFA—to strike Page 20, lines 8-21**. This section would allow DDA to re-establish a limit on "the dollar amount of individual–directed and family–directed goods and services provided to a recipient. .

This would reverse legislation that Legislators, citizens and advocates worked very hard to pass just two years year. The Self-Direction Act of 2022, passed by unanimous vote, and stated that DDA "may not limit the dollar amount of individual-directed and family-directed goods and services provided to a recipient.". These services enable families and individuals to receive the help and services needed to be a contributing member of their society. IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help. This is such an important service for these individual's and their families' future.

To put arbitrary limits on these services is not at all in the best interest of individuals with disabilities and their families. It certainly wasn't the intention when the Self-Direction Act of 2022 was passed. These services are outlined in a Person Centered Plan, prepared by the individual and his/her team, where the services that are needed are decided. For DDA then to place an arbitrary limit on what the team recommends does not honor Person Centered Planning.

There is currently a limit on these funds. In order to access funds for these services, they must come from Unallocated Funds in an already approved Individual Budget. Individuals need to use that money that is already allocated to them for any of these services. It is self-limiting, dollar-wise, by their own budget. It is not asking for extra funding. An individual cannot ask for more than they have already been budgeted.

I have two adult children with disabilities, Matthew is 32 and has Cerebral Palsy and Carson is 27 and has Autism. These services allow my children to participate in the community, get vital exercise, and have dental work done that Medicaid declined because there is not an approved Medicaid provider who provides this service. These services also allow us to have an administrative person that we can train to take over helping our adult children to self-direct once we are gone. As parents, we spend many hours a week managing services for our adult children. We are getting older and one day will not be able to do so. This eases that big worry for many parents and also will keep our loved ones from being the responsibility of the state at a much higher price tag.

Unfortunately, the 2024 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA), recently proposed by the Moore-Miller Administration, would strike this very important provision from Maryland law. This is why I am writing in to request that you amend this bill by removing this section. Please understand the serious detrimental impact this will have on individuals with disabilities and their families if this bill passes without this change.

Sincerely,

Susan Bosworth
28 Chatham Court
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
443-838-5963

Submitted 2/27/2024

Letter.IFDGS.Michelle.Johnson.20240226.pdf
Uploaded by: Timothy Johnson
Position: UNF

From: Timothy and Jae Johnson on behalf of Michelle Johnson 2/26/2024

5216 Red Maple Drive

Frederick. Maryland 21703

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

RE: SB0362/HB0352 Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

We are participants on behalf of Michelle Johnson and who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverses a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. This would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on Michelle's independence, community inclusion, health and safety concerns.

IFDGS is part of Michelle's approved plan and budget based on her assessed support needs--direct services such as, Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for Michelle's needs should be available to her.

Please Note: IFDGS spending does not add additional funds it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS funding helps people stay healthy, active, and productively engaged in their communities. IFDGS supports peoples' independence and helps keep them safe. IFDGS Day-to-day administrative supports aim to help sustain peoples' ability to self-direct, even when their parents or siblings are not able to help.

Since the changes to waiver resulting from the Act became effective July 1, 2023, Michelle has been able to access the funds from her DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in her person centered plan.

All Michelle's supports are critical to her continued development and future care. At the age of 25, many young women are just graduating from college, starting a career, a family, enjoying their independence without boundaries and disabilities impeding them. Michelle is working hard toward a portion of this. Her disability has existed since birth and the prognosis is it is permanent, and she will never reach these and other goals set forth unless we as a society, state, government, country help her throughout her lifetime. She along with others with disabilities didn't ask to be born this way. She is a beautiful caring loving young lady that deserves to be happy, prosperous, and have the opportunities and quality of life we all enjoy. Although there are things that won't be possible, taking away what is in fact possible, such as any funding or programs that exist or can exist, in support of her and others with disabilities would be another tragic disappointment and setback in her life and the lives of others with disabilities and those that support them.

Please don't leave me and others behind, help us continue to help them, for those who cannot help themselves.

Michelle Johnson
Michelle Johnson
02/26/2024

Timothy Johnson
02/26/2024

Jae Johnson
Jae K Johnson
02/26/2024

AFTtestimonyAgainstBRFA.pdf
Uploaded by: Todd Reynolds
Position: UNF

A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008
md.aft.org

Kenya Campbell
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Written Testimony Submitted for the Record

to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Feb 29,2024

Denise Riley AFT-Maryland

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.

Parent Testimony - SB362 HB352 UNFAVORABLE.pdf
Uploaded by: Tracey Wright
Position: UNF

February 26, 2024

RE: **SB0362/HB0352**
Please remove from this bill any reference to ARTICLE-HEALTH-GENERAL SECTION 7-101 and SECTION 7-409. Leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact.

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

We are the parents and official guardians of a participant who receives DDA Waiver services under the self-directed service model.

The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverse a major provision of the Self Direction Act of 2022. The changes would allow the DDA to establish an arbitrary limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on our son's independence, community inclusion, health, and safety. Our autistic 22-year-old son, Samuel, is in his first year of receiving DDA services. We could not find a Community Development vendor able to staff for him due to his complex, multiple diagnoses and need for intense behavioral support. As a Self-Directed individual, we found the Cura Personalis Project (CPP). Supported by his 1:1 staff, Sam learns vocational and social skills five days a week through the CPP program located at a horse stable. The mostly outdoor environment gives him the space to safely manage his intense dysregulated moments and to participate at his own pace and in his own way. (see photos below)

DDA requires that Cura Personalis invoice as an IFDGS service. Yet, arbitrary limits on IFDGS would prevent Sam and others from using their approved funds to fully access the program. For example, a cap of $5,000 would only cover half of the annual cost for his 5-day/week spot. Please remember: IFDGS spending **<u>does not add additional funds; it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.</u>**

Arbitrary limits will prevent Sam from achieving the goals in his person centered plan. IFDGS is part of Sam's approved plan and budget based on his assessed support needs--direct services such as Personal Supports, Community Integration, Job Supports, and more. The rates for these services were set by DDA and the budget generated for his needs should be available to him.

Since the changes to the waiver resulting from the Act became effective on July 1, 2023, our son has been able to access the funds from his DDA approved budget in order to reach the outcomes and goals in his person centered plan.

We appeal to you to **leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (The Act) intact, so that Sam and other self-directed adults can continue to hold the reins of their own lives by maintaining the ability to spend approved funds through IFDGS in a manner that best supports their plan.**

Sincerely,

Tracey Wright and Sheldon Alberts
Parents and Official Guardians of a Self-Directed individual with disabilities

SB 362. LOI. The Arc Maryland.pdf
Uploaded by: Ande Kolp
Position: INFO

The Arc Maryland
8601 Robert Fulton Drive
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046
T 410.571.9320
www.thearcmd.org

SENATE BILL 362: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 28, 2024
POSITION: Letter of Information

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Through the following section of the BRFA, (p. 20, lines 8–21, amending 7–409.8), if approved, DDA would have the ability to establish a limit on the dollar amount of individual–directed and family–directed goods and services provided to a recipient. Through The Self Direction Act of 2022, the cap on Individual Directed and Family Directed Goods and Services (IDFDGS) was removed to allow people who self-direct to access IDFDGS out of plan savings. IDFDGS are services, equipment, activities, or supplies needed by a person to enhance their ability to meet a goal in their person-centered plan. Items, activities, or services must not be available under another waiver service and must match what is allowed by CMS.

While we understand the need to generate revenues for the state budget, we would recommend this change not be initiated at this time and not until there is first a full analysis of the system: this change may very well not result in much savings to the state, but result in disruption to individual people or families in self-direction. **Instead, we would like to see an in-depth examination of the equity of the rates and rate components between provider-supported and self-directed models, an examination of the operating requirements of both providers and people who self-direct (with a lens on what requirements are necessary for health, safety, and quality of life) and a change in service definitions in our waivers to restore flexibility to peoples' lives (regardless of service model) while ensuring appropriate checks, balances, and budgetary controls.**

Sincerely,
Ande Kolp, Executive Director
The Arc Maryland
443-851-9351 akolp@thearcmd.org

Letters Supporting Cade from Students.pdf
Uploaded by: John Dedie
Position: INFO

LETTER #1

I'm Max, and I'm a community college student, attending CCBC. Could I please have a moment of your time to read my letter?

In 1998, the Cade formula was passed into law, requiring that community colleges are given 29 cents for each dollar universities are given. After 24 years, community colleges finally received the full funding required by the Cade formula. For the past 2 years, the funding for community colleges has met the standard set by the Cade formula.

However, community college funding now is going down again (from 29 cents to 26 cents per dollar that universities receive). Meanwhile, university funding is being raised by 5%, even though Maryland universities serve only half as many students as Maryland community colleges.

The president of CCBC hasn't raised tuition in five years. Sadly, this budget cut will force the college to raise tuition.

Even charging an **extra $18 per credit** adds up:

$18 * 3 credits * 5 classes = **extra $270 per semester** for each student.

According to Forbes, a person with an associate's degree makes $400,000 more over their lifetime than someone with a high school diploma (and bear in mind, the extra $400,000 is taxable income). Since community colleges are less costly, often closer to students, and easier to access (CCBC has 100% acceptance rate), maintaining current community college funding would make an associate degree more readily available to all.

I care greatly about working hard, doing my best, and having a career that helps make my area of the world a little better. I strive very hard for good grades, and I'm very fortunate to be able to attend community college nearly for free through scholarships based upon my GPA. This may not be available if my community college has less funding.

My parents' jobs are commission-based, so their income fluctuates throughout the year. Money is tight right now, and it's a huge blessing that I'm able to go to CCBC with these scholarships, as I'm using all my time to focus on college.

Please consider returning funding to and investing in community colleges, in our future. In my future.

Thank you.

LETTER #2

February 25, 2024
Kyle Clarke Echeverria
125 Versailles Cir Apt F
Towson MD 21204

In 1998, the Senator John Cade funding formula was enacted to ensure equitable funding for Maryland's community colleges, a promise that took 24 years to fully realize. Recently, Budget Secretary Helene Grady has suggested reducing this funding, citing a decline in enrollment—a view that overlooks the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on our students and the vital role these institutions play. I am writing to advocate for the increase of the Cade Formula funding, emphasizing its necessity for the sustainability and accessibility of community college education in our state. At the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) I have shaped my education around a curriculum which heavily emphasizes class discussions, collaboration, and self-discovery. I have fully immersed myself in the opportunities at the college to enhance my educational journey. The communities found at CCBC bring together a group of students who support each other and collectively strive toward personal growth. This inclusive environment allowed me to flourish and completely transformed me into the scholar and leader I am today. The college introduced me to many works of literature, which led me to pursue research independent studies in the program. These independent studies focused on literature containing Afrofuturism and queer themes in literature. As an aspiring writer, these courses introduced me to many foundational works that will influence my writing and improve my understanding of the genres in the literary world. The opportunities I have been given have served as a catalyst for my development as a scholar. The countless opportunities presented to me completely changed my educational pathway. Their support and my focus on academics led me to be accepted into a research program at Johns Hopkins. At Hopkins, I refined my scholarly abilities and created an independent research project that I presented at an undergraduate conference. These experiences and goals were all thanks to CCBC's community, who believed in me and allowed me to succeed. This path of self-discovery and growth went beyond my studies. As I became more involved in the college, I wanted to contribute to its mission of preparing students for transfer and career success. In the fall semester of 2023, I became involved in several leadership roles at the college. Because of my roles, I was able to craft events to motivate students to excel in community college and help them with their transfer journey. I encouraged students to take multiple courses that focused on critical thinking. I had the initiative to have a course registration fairs so students could familiarize themselves with the professors' teaching courses and the topics discussed in the classroom. The goal was to familiarize students with the curriculum and get them to enroll in the classes. I want to introduce students to the same opportunities I had through my community college and encourage them to continue their academic journey and complete it successfully. Currently, I am supporting my classmates by organizing several panel presentations for our student conference.

Several classmates and I will present the research projects we did for our courses. I encouraged them to present their scholarly work to refine their research and public speaking skills. I find joy in helping others succeed, and I am very grateful for the support and community that pushed me to excel in my academics and beyond. I want to see my peers have opportunities like I did. I want to see my peers thrive as I have thrived in the Community College of Baltimore County. But unfortunately, without adequate funding my peers will be uneducated and many of them will be forced to leave the community college due to the budget cuts and tuition increases. The community college fosters values in its students that they will take outside the classroom and make out community a better place. Community colleges are responsible of removing the barriers of entry to higher education and by reducing the funding it will have detrimental impacts in our community. It would be a disservice shut the doors on these students the future scholars, leaders, and innovators of this generation. I am writing to ask you to please increase the Cade formula and allow these students to thrive. Sincerely, Kyle Clarke Echeverria

LETTER #3

My name is Katie Piunti, I am a student at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC). I am writing to inform you of the impacts the Cade Funding Formula has on my education. I have been a dual-enrolled student for Two years however, without the Cade Funding

I would have not been able to seek a better education. Many families like my own have struggled financially over the past few years after the impact of Covid. Without the Cade Funding Formula, my Family would not have been able to afford for me to be able to take classes at CCBC. My experience at CCBC has opened my eyes to new ideas, creativity, and has allowed me to express myself. Through CCBC I have been able to explore my options and not feel rushed to decide a major. I have also experimented in different classes to help get an insight on different career options I will have in the future. Without the Cade Funding none of this would have ever been possible for me. Through CCBC I have found my passion, all possible with the Cade Funding Formula. With recent talk of possible reducing the funding community colleges will receive, I am worried for future students, and all who seek higher education. Community College allows students to explore different life paths, save money, and reach a new level of education. If the funding cut was put into place many students like me would not be able to have the opportunities, they seek a higher education. Going into CCBC two years ago, I was worried it would not be a good fit for me. However, it was an eye-opening experience that has impacted my life greatly. I always thought I would go down a path that led to medical school. However, after experimenting with classes and new ideas, I am not on a pre-law path. Without CCBC I would have never even thought of a law career. Through CCBC I was able to take classes like poli-sci, criminal justice, etc.

I would have never had these opportunities if dual enrollment wasn't an option. With all that being said, I hope you have a new viewpoint on how the Cade Funding Formula is important to many students, and how impactful it can be on education.

Thank you,

Katie Piunti
Student of the Community College of Baltimore
kkpiunti@yahoo.com

LETTER #4

My name is Taylor Finch, and I am a resident of Maryland. I am also a current student at the Community College of Baltimore County. And I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the Cade funding formula budget decrease. The proposed budget cuts to the Cade formula will undoubtedly negatively affect many Baltimore residents.

The purpose of community college is to make higher education more accessible and affordable to all citizens. Being a student at the Community College of Baltimore County has impacted my life in ways that I never could have imagined. Indeed, CCBC is a learning institution however, it is more than just a place for learning. I have found a community at CCBC that I have not found anywhere else. Through CCBC, I have learned valuable skills and have found numerous work opportunities. I am a Goldman Sachs fellow because CCBC partnered with the company. I have since become a student leader at CCBC and strive to make it a more inclusive and mentally stimulating environment. Furthermore, professors' attention and care for their students at CCBC may be unrivaled. Class sizes at CCBC are small and honors classes are even smaller. This allows students to get to know their professors and receive more personalized assignment feedback. Moreover, community colleges are invaluable in today’s society. The cost of living has risen in recent years, yet community colleges are still an option for many due to low tuition.

Universities and colleges do deserve money however, do community colleges like CCBC have to suffer? Most of the students that attend CCBC plan on transferring to 4-year institutions. However, by defunding community colleges, they may be unable to attend a 4-year institution. University and college are investments that many students may not be able to make upfront community colleges give these students the flexibility they need to earn their associate's and bachelor's at an affordable price. Additionally, "Each year, Maryland's community colleges enroll a diverse population of nearly 500,000 students. – 150,000 in credit programs and 350,000 in continuing education and workforce development courses" (Community College Month). Decreasing funding for community college budgets could adversely affect the futures of hundreds of thousands of Maryland residents.

I hope that you realize the Cade funding formula is important to college students and those who are working to receive a certification or license. Maryland is a well-educated state however in time that may change if community colleges lack the funding they deserve. House Bill 350 has the potential to positively or negatively impact my life and the lives of others depending on your decisions.

Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to your response.

Taylor Finch Phone number: (443) 653-2841 email: fi1071978@email.ccbcmd.edu

LETTER #5

Dear delegates of the people of Baltimore,

My name is Leslie Vicioso, and I´m current student at Community College of Baltimore County. It is important to me to graduate because on that way I will have a better job and develop a career as a doctor later. I see CCBC as the beginning of a promising future. Even if I start from scratch to build a good career. This impacts me in many ways, and one of them is how each day, they allow me to study without having to worry about not being able to pay for my classes. I am very grateful for this because I believe that receiving a quality education is a great opportunity for everyone, including me. Because it allows me to grow personally and academically acquiring all the necessary tools to be a great professional. Another reason is the resources and other opportunities they give me, such as having transportation between campuses and having a good laptop to study that was donated by CCBC for belonging to the honor students. Also, being able to help other students to know all the resources that CCBC has.

Thanks for read,

Sincerely,

Leslie

LETTER #6

Dear Mrs. Adrienne Jones,

REF: Cade Formula Increment Proposition

The purpose of my writing of this letter is to humbly request for increment of the Cade Formula to the Community College of Baltimore County. My name is Fidel Jonathan Okaya, I am an international student at the Community College of Baltimore County, pursuing an undergraduate degree in political science. My home country is Kenya. I am currently on my third semester at the institution, having arrived in the country in October of 2022 on a visitor's visa. During my period as a mere tourist, I was amazed at the level of infrastructure here in Maryland, this attracted me to wanting to know more about this great country. I subsequently applied for a student visa which thankfully, was approved. Life from where I am from is much different to life here in the United States of America, we as Kenyans have a long way to go to come anywhere near the level of the United States when it comes to infrastructure and economy.

The state of Pennsylvania alone, is bigger than the whole of Kenya in terms of size. The state of Pennsylvania has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $975billion. Kenya has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $278 billion as of now. Nonetheless, the Kenyan government allocates 27% of its budget on education, with $1.3billion going to university education. This amount is divided among the public universities, which are owned by the state. Additionally, the government allocates some funds to university and college students under a program known as Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), which was established in July of 1995, it is a state corporation in the ministry of education, HELB's mission is to provide sustainable finance to Kenyans pursuing higher education. How HELB works is that the government pays a portion of an applicant student's university fees, be it in private or public universities. The applicant is obliged to repay the state upon completing education, this fee is deducted from one's pay upon beginning employment, the rate of deduction is agreed upon during the application. Education is very important to me in terms of acquiring knowledge and using that knowledge to change my personal life, my country and the world at large for the better. The Community College of Baltimore, being where i study, has, and always will have, a special place in my heart. To me, allocation of funds to learning institutions ought to be a top priority, given the importance of education to individual living standards and to the economy.

Sincerely,

Fidel Okaya,

CCBC student.

LETTER #7

Subject: Support for increasing Cade Formula for Maryland Community Colleges

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing this letter to share with you my personal story and to urge your support for increasing funding for Maryland community colleges through the Cade Formula. As a temporary resident of Maryland and an international student on student visa, I have experienced firsthand the transformative and positive impact community college have on individuals and communities.

Growing up in a simple household, access to a higher education in a foreign country is a huge privilege. It almost seemed like a distant dream. However, CCBC has provided me with an affordable tuition, flexible class schedules, and a supportive learning environment. They came as a lifeline for me. Thanks to CCBC, I am able to pursue my educational goals as an international student.

CCBC is not only providing me with academic knowledge but also equipping me practical skills and real-world experiences through hands-on learning initiatives. The highly dedicated faculty and staff at CCBC are investing in my success, offering mentorship, and guidance every step of the way.

CCBC serves as a hub of diversity and inclusion, bringing together individuals from all walks of life and creating a vibrant community of learners. The motivation and continuous guidance I have received at CCBC have enriched my life and broadened my perspectives. It has fostered a sense of belonging and acceptance for me as an international student in a new country.

However, the recent proposed cuts to community college funding threaten to undermine the invaluable work being done at institutions like CCBC. Budget Secretary Helen Grady's assertion that community colleges do not require as much funding due to enrollment declines fails to consider the numerous challenges faced by students, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many international students, like myself, have faced additional obstacles due to travel restrictions and financial hardships, making the support provided by community colleges even more critical during these times.

Furthermore, it is deep to see that while community colleges face cuts, the university system is sure to receive a budget increase. This disparity in funding allocation not only perpetuates inequality but also jeopardizes the accessibility and affordability of higher education for Maryland residents and international students like myself.

I urge you to consider the stories of individuals like myself who have benefited from the opportunities provided by community colleges. Increasing funding for Maryland community colleges through the Cade Formula is not just an investment in education; it is an investment in the future of the state and the potential talents in the students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope you will be able to support for strengthening the Cade Formula in the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,
Samik Gahatraj
7201 Rossville Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland, 21237

LETTER #8

My name is Aminah Anderson, I live in the 21228 zip code and I've been attending CCBC in total, for about 3 years now. CCBC has allowed me to graduate high school in 3 years. I first began taking classes at CCBC online in August of 2021. I took one class fall semester and then another in the spring to get the last required credits I would need to graduate. I graduated in the spring of 2022, 1 year early and then I started attending CCBC full time in fall of 2022.

Graduating early allowed me to get a "head start" on my college education which at the time was what I felt like really mattered, more so than taking an additional year in high school. I was able to have more free time because I was not it school all day, as I was used to from my previous 11 years in grade school. I was able to spend my time doing more of the things I enjoy like working, spending time with family and picking up hobbies.

When I became a full-time student at CCBC, unlike a lot of college students I was able to do so without taking out student loans. For many families loans are not an option, CCBC allowed for me to receive the college education I felt so important while not having to worry about debt. In addition, living away from home in a dorm was something I did not want, even if it was only 20 minutes away from my family home. I value and enjoy my family a lot and being able to still be around them during these challenging couple of years has been essential on my road to success. Being away from them would've made my college experience extremely difficult.

Coming to CCBC I initially I didn't know what I wanted to study but I did have an idea. I chose political science because government always interested me in school, it was my favorite subject. Being able to go to a school with the most affordable prices available for a higher education lessened the stress of choosing a major. I didn't feel the anxiety of choosing the wrong one and risk being set back significantly financially and academically.

CCBC has prepared me for my next 2 years of college at a university ad well has graduate school. In a way I feel CCBC allowed me to gradually experience the college and adult lifestyle. It was a good middle period between grade school and going to a 4-year university.

My experience at CCBC over the last 2 years that I've had in person classes has been good. All of my teachers have been helpful and take their job seriously. If I was ever having an issue, they tried their best to accommodate me. I've also used services on campus, such as the advisors and they have also been helpful. They have assisted me in laying out a course plan for my time at CCBC ensure I stay on track to graduate. Getting in to speak to one has never been a hassle either. I've also used some of the library resources for help on papers and overall everybody has given me the help I needed. CCBC has allowed me to have the most stress-free college experiences a student can ask for.

Sincerely,

Aminah Anderson

LETTER #9

Dear Maryland Senate,

I am writing to express my deep worry and concern regarding the proposed budget cuts for community colleges in Maryland. As a current student at Community College of Baltimore County, I am a witness to the invaluable roles many of the parties on campus provide. For example, the free tutoring, student support services and the food lockers and pantry for toiletries. As someone who benefits from all the extra help provided by the proposed budget cut it has me concerned. These budget cuts would undoubtedly have detrimental effects on my education and the education of countless others.

First and foremost, budget cuts would result in reduced course offerings and that means increased class sizes. Not only would that overwhelm teachers but also introverted students like me. Imagine how disruptive a large class could be. This would also create enrollment challenges, limited availability of courses and more. The longer we stay in college, the more of a financial burden we will be.

Next, budget cuts could lead to the decline of education and support services offered by the school. Some of the essential resources that matter to me are tutoring support, academic advising, and counseling services. Without these support systems, students alike will struggle to succeed academically. There have been times I was so hungry that I could not concentrate without being able to afford lunch. I go to the food panty and grab a soup or raviolis to hold me over so that I can focus. But that is at the bottom of the hierarchy of basic needs.

Additionally, budget cuts could impact the availability of extracurricular activities and enrichment programs. These enhance overall college experiences and contribute to students' personal development. These opportunities play a vital role in fostering a sense of community and welcoming.

Lastly, budget cuts could affect financial aid. The only reason I can attend school and fulfill my dreams is financial aid. If funding is cut, I may never be able to afford my schooling. Between the FAFSA and scholarships, that is how me and several others are able to attend. If you are worried about attendance, cutting our budget will most certainly not help attendance. Without financial aid students may be taking on financial debt.

In conclusion, the proposed budget cuts for community colleges pose a significant threat to the accessibility, affordability, and quality of education for students like me. I urge you to reconsider these cuts and prioritize investments in community colleges to ensure all students can pursue their educational aspirations and success.

Sincerely, Autumn L. Anderson CCBC Student Class of 2025

LETTER #10

On Behalf of myself and my fellow Community College of Baltimore County students House Bill 350 effects more than just the fiscal budget. My, like many other college student's academic careers have been admittedly stressful. Not only do most students going to work often working full-time positions they also sign up for a fulltime course load in order to graduate on time. Some are parents or expectant parents. Others are caretakers, nurses and even themselves require extensive care. Bills, mortgages and loans and stack up. And sometimes it seems like there isn't enough time in a week let alone a day.

With the outside pressure to keep afloat in our current socio – economic environment one crucial thing that must be preserved is schooling. As frustrating as classes can be and as tiresome essays can seem, the reward of a quality education can't be replaced. Whether it's an education for trades to starting the long process of more esteemed degrees every degree is important. Each professional in the job market currently, before and after had to start somewhere and one of the most assured/safest routes is services like community college.

Cutting funding harms so many Americans professionally, socially, and economically. With Maryland's long history of being a state instilled with change and progress it seems like a regression to cut off a major source of valuable intellectual currency. The social climate of America not only on the sides of experts in the industry mourning the lack of attention and care required for teaching but the students themselves have shown a decrease in retention and learning. Education resources are stretched thin enough and it only has to start small in order to create a larger problem.

I hope you can at least give some consideration to the people who really rely on community colleges like CCBC and increase resources helping to fund our colleges' necessary work. Thank for your time and rumination.

LETTER #11

Hello, my name is Ethan Holland. I am here to talk about the issue with cutting the budget of community college. CCBC is a big part of my life. I have met a bunch of new people and new friends. I am a part of the baseball team at CCBC Essex. This has led me to new friendships that I wouldn't never imagined. For example, I have friends who live in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Japan. I would have never met these people if it wasn't for the diverse aspect I get while playing baseball at a community college. If we cut the budget one problem will be we can't have as many people on the sports teams. The cost for food, jerseys, etc will be too much to carry as many people as we carry now. So that takes away opportunities for friendships and other things. Another thing is, a lot of my friends on the team don't have that much money so they
have to do work study. If the budget gets cut the school won't be able to afford as many students for work study. This will cause other problems. How is the student supposed to afford things like groceries now? A lot of the students on the sports teams are not from here, including myself. So we have to stay in apartments right beside the school. We have to buy many things like our groceries. If you cut the budget you are taking opportunities away from students to get money.

The student athlete cannot work an outside job. CCBC works around your schedule because they know you are an athlete. Work study is a big thing and it is important for student athletes.
What will happen to these kids when they have to get a job? They won't be able to do both.
Working a job and being a student athlete. They can only pick 2 of the three things to accomplish. There are many negative things that will happen as the result of cutting the budget.
These will affect me the most. I suggest keeping the budget the same or even increasing it to help our students be successful. Graduating from a community college before going to a 4 year school is important because it helps us understand the load

and responsibilities while still giving us some free time. I don’t think cutting the budget will help at all. In conclusion, CCBC affects me in many ways and it is a big part of my life and my future. I have met many new people here and this college has taught me a lot of new things. Do not cut the budget because it will not help anything only make things worse. Trust me an actual student who sees everything happen on a

LETTER #12

Hello to whomever this may be read by, my name is Robert Tilghman Levering and I am currently a student at CCBC Essex Community College as a freshman. I was previously a student at Concordia Preparatory School in Towson Maryland, I was never the best student when it came to grades but nevertheless I have the drive to be successful. CCBC was one of the only schools I applied to because of my grades. This school is my chance to be successful. I am 18 years old with the desire to be able to provide for myself and my future family. The Cade Formula lowering of funding I think should not be lowered. Students like me rely on institutions like CCBC to be able to have a chance in today's world financially, and for me, the only chance to make it to a 4 year college like Towson University. The lowering of the budget could result in anything from as little as a few less bathrooms or vending machines at some locations, to as severely as certain campuses being closed or reduced. People like me rely on schools like these to be able to hope on creating a future for ourselves and our children. I am lucky enough to have found CCBC where I can commute and learn, but after the reduction of funding some people in the future like me may not be lucky enough to have a location to be able to go to and will be left without the education they strive to have. I request this budget not be lowered as the results to some may just be numbers and statistics but to others this is “life or death” for one's future; for them and their families. Thank You for Your Time. - Robert Tilghman Levering

LETTER #13

Dear Maryland State Government,

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed cutting of CADE funding. Since 1998 the current CADE formula has been aiding many low-income community college students. Underfunding of education will cause an economic impact. Cutting this fund will impact many students statewide in ways we have yet to fully know.

Many students cannot afford to fund a college education on their own. Education funding depends on the state and local resources, with only a small share coming from the federal government. Districts in high-poverty areas, mainly serving students of color, receive less funding for students than districts in low-poverty areas that predominantly serve white students. This inequality already promotes a disadvantage to certain individuals looking to further their education.

Cuts to the CADE fund will further harm these individuals and others in many ways.

Underfunding education can devastate local communities and their economy as a whole. Parents will not be able to obtain decent paying jobs if they are able to continue their education leading to difficulty hardship in obtaining after school childcare to help with troubled communities. Job markets will be impacted as well. Many careers that can enable an individual to successfully provide for their families require a background in college education. Many unnecessary vacancies for important positions will need to be filled causing a ripple effect on economic growth.

I ask that you take my letter into consideration and allow for measures to be taken to protect the CADE formula.

Sincerely, Mak Petion.

LETTER #14

I think it's sad that I must write this letter but it's one that I won't hesitate to do. In my political science course, we were told that community colleges in my home state of Maryland will be receiving cuts to fundings, cuts that will result in students not getting the proper resources they need to be the very best. I find that this issue has touched a nerve for me. I in no way would be in the position I am in life without the programs, environment, and opportunities that community college has given to me. It's a privilege to be able to attend school. It's an opportunity that most kids my age doesn't get a chance to do. Especially for my family, I'm one of the first boys in 3 generations to attend college. My Grandfather grow up with very little money and was a rancher never getting the chance to attend and sort of university. My father joined the Marine Corp after he graduated high school, after six years of service he joined the Baltimore city police department. My father also never had a chance to attend college. While on deployment he met my mother. My mother grew up in a dictatorship, money was very hard to come by. She worked hard her entire life just so her family could get by. Even when she came to this country she worked and raised her boys, she never had a chance to attend school. School was always something my mother pushed us in, she never failed to tell us how important it is to attend school. The reason I believe that school is so important to her is that she never really had the chance to go to school herself, it's her dream to see her boys have degrees. My family never had a lot of money but because I was a good student CCBC has provided me with financial grants that help me carry on my collage career. I never had the easiest life; with this I struggle with mental health issues at times. This is something many in my generation also struggle with as well. CCBC never shies away from showing its students all the great resources they must have to support students going through these issues. I have taken advantage of these resources and opened to the great facility that supports us students. I have only felt comfortable at CCBC, it is a place that spreads positivity and warmth for anyone that wants to be there. I also never felt pressure like how most other students feel at 4-year university. Students can thrive in a positive environment, surrounded by positive people in an institution that provides a list of opportunities for students that need it, students like me. If these institutions lose funding, it will lose student students that want to have an education but aren't in the same bracket as other families. These cuts will handcuff a college that was created to help students like me, and there's many of us. Community colleges gives students a chance at a better future, I'm asking that you keep that light at the end of that tunnel brightly burning, not to extinguish it.

Pablo Thompson

Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: John Dedie
Position: INFO

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 29, 2024
Testimony of John G. Dedie

Informational

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Dedie, Professor of Political Science at the Community Colleges of Baltimore County. I am asking you today for two requests. First to restore the funding in the budget for the Cade Formula as originally intended by law to 29 cents on the dollar instead of 26 cents that DMB is recommending. Second, to restore prescription drug coverage for retired state employees. Both items former Governor Hogan fully funded.

Budget Secretary Helene Grady, a graduate of Harvard and former Johns Hopkins employee, claims that the state's 16 community colleges don't need that much money since she alleges that community college enrollment has declined. She forgets part of this occurred due to the Covid era impacting the neediest of the state's citizens and our students, and that university enrollment also declined at the same time. Community colleges have had similar declines in enrollment as universities, but universities are getting a budget increase, but community colleges create more jobs and do more job training which grows the economy. The university system, serves only 160,000 students, is getting a 5% increase in their budget. The reduced Cade formula funding will give community colleges that serve 330,000 students less money, over $20 million. **THE NET EFFECT FOR CCBC: A LOSS OF $4.5M.**

The Cade funding formula was designed to help financially provide fair funding for community colleges. Community colleges train more medical personnel than the University system. It trains dental hygienists and truck drivers as CBS featured in 2022. The National Cyber Director Harry Coker, Jr recently visited the CCBC Cyber Security center to Spotlight Best Practices to Build and Grow the Nation's Cyber Workforce. I feel the Budget Security is unformed about these benefits' community colleges offer.

How are community colleges in smaller jurisdictions like Garrett, Alleghany, Frederick Talbot and Wicomico countries supposed to make up the financial cut to places that educate, and job train their residents? The economic impact will be deeper than the cuts. The cuts mean tuition increases for the neediest people, increased spending for county governments, layoffs and possible closing of college extension centers like Randallstown in Speaker Jones's district.

Community colleges encourage new and existing business development by providing academic opportunities like transfer degrees, workforce training, and lifelong learning, creating long-term economic growth for the state.

I encourage you to restore the Cade funding. My students and future students are depending on it. In my testimony I have included letters my students have written to legislators asking for Cade funding to be restored

Second, I am asking you to support reinstatement of prescription drug coverage for over **50,000** Maryland retired state employees. **No state has lost its AAA bond rating solely because of its OPEB liability. Prescription drug coverage for retirees over 65 is not the major factor concerning the bond rating agencies.** Last week I talked with Jack Archibald of the Fitch Ratings Agency in NY and he said ratings are based on a state's willingness to repay debt. Maryland has always been good at that.

The state's Retiree Rx drug plan for those Medicare-eligible is not a new budget cost. The benefit has been a pay-as-you-go part of the budget since the benefit was established. Continued since 2018 under court injunction with no impact on state operations. **No other state or local jurisdiction has made the elimination of Rx drug coverage retroactive.**

The <u>total costs</u> to most retirees will be significantly more than the *so-called* "out-of-pocket" costs. The coverage through Part D is terrible. The plans can add or drop coverage for drugs after you have selected a plan, and they can increase copayments on drugs. Part D is not comprehensive coverage. The donut hole does end for 2025, but there are deductibles that must be met before coverage occurs along with ongoing copays. Plus, you can only get a 30 day supply of medication. Many Seniors will be forced to pick between taking their RX and eating. I encourage you to ask your parents about their Medicare prescription history and cost.

People ask why it is hard to hire and retain state employes. When you take away their benefits over time they seek other options. A state career was once security and great benefits, now it's just another job. We should not make taking these benefits a rerun of what happened to Bethlehem Steel workers who lost their benefits like my late father-in-law.

Finally, this budget is throwing Grandma and her grandchildren from the train. It is a cold budget being balanced on the backs of economically disadvantaged groups of Marylanders.
Thank you.

DBM Testimony_BRFA_HB352_SB362.pdf
Uploaded by: Laura Vykol-Gray
Position: INFO

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

HELENE GRADY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 362 / HOUSE BILL 352

BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND FINANCING ACT OF 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
House Appropriations Committee
February 28, 2024
February 29, 2024

Testimony by

Helene Grady
Secretary of Budget and Management

SB 362 / HB 352, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 (BRFA), implements several actions to balance the FY 2025 budget and to provide out-year structural budget relief. These budget actions provide approximately $1.8 billion in General Fund savings through FY 2029, including nearly $1.0 billion in savings between FY 2024 ($199 million) and FY 2025 ($806 million).

Background

The Governor's FY 2025 budget proposal continues the administration's commitment to fiscal discipline, addressing some of the State's critical and immediate needs while providing out-year structural budget relief. The Governor and Administration have been clear-eyed about the structural deficit and have acknowledged the problem since prior to assuming office. This transitional budget reflects progress on key objectives and allows us time to work in partnership with the legislature to address our longer-term structural challenges.

The Governor's proposed budget meets or exceeds the Spending Affordability Committee's recommendations to:

- Balance the budget on a cash basis with a minimum $100 million fund balance;
- Reduce the FY2025 structural deficit by at least 33%; and
- Maintain a Rainy Day Fund balance of at least 8.5% of General Fund revenues.

The proposed budget accomplishes these objectives while also making critical, and in some cases historic, investments in the top priorities for Marylanders. These include public safety, education, child care, housing, economic development, and workforce development, as well as critical investments in our state workforce that will help our agencies better serve Marylanders. We agree with many of the important and laudable programs that were previously established, and you see many of these reflected in the proposed budget, including historic funding under the Blueprint for pre-K through 12 education (an increase of $461 million) and record funding for the child care scholarship program (an additional $270 million annually and nearly $490 million over two years).

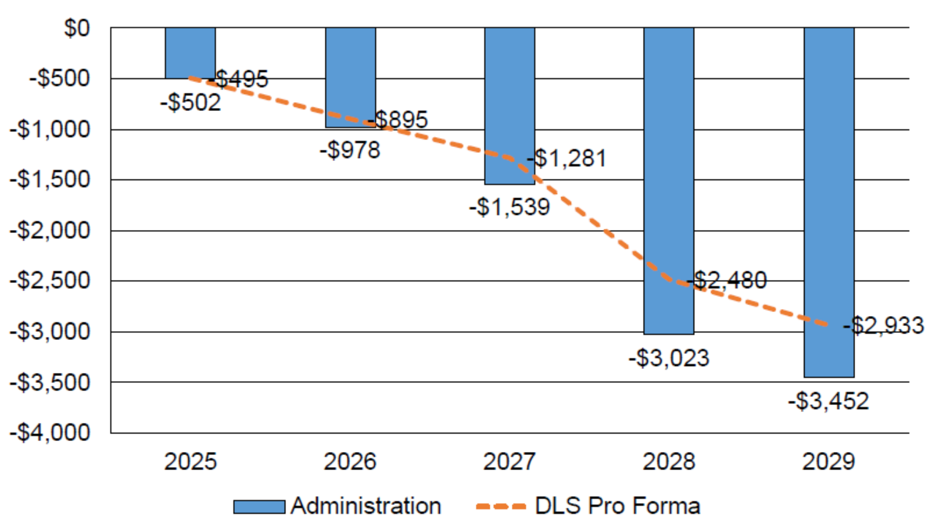
In order to meet our fiscal responsibility objectives while also prioritizing these critical investment areas, the Administration chose to refocus state government toward funding the state's most core responsibilities, evaluating how and what the State is spending its money on before considering asking taxpayers to contribute more. This requires reining in some spending that grew unsustainably during the pandemic years in order to redirect resources across the State's most core responsibilities and highest priorities.

The approach taken by the Administration, reflected in the BRFA, includes the following:

- Providing relief from various funding mandates, both one-time and ongoing;
- Increasing revenues to the General Fund in both the short and long term;
- Expanding allowable uses of certain funds and revenues as well as authorizing fund transfers; and
- Making other changes to current law to provide budget relief in the short and/or long term to both the General Fund and the Transportation Trust Fund.

As DLS' forecast indicates (see Exhibit 1 below), this work is only going to get harder in the years to come. The measures included in the BRFA represent a strong starting point for the hard work ahead.

Exhibit 1: General Fund Structural Budget Outlook
Fiscal 2025-2029
($ in Millions)

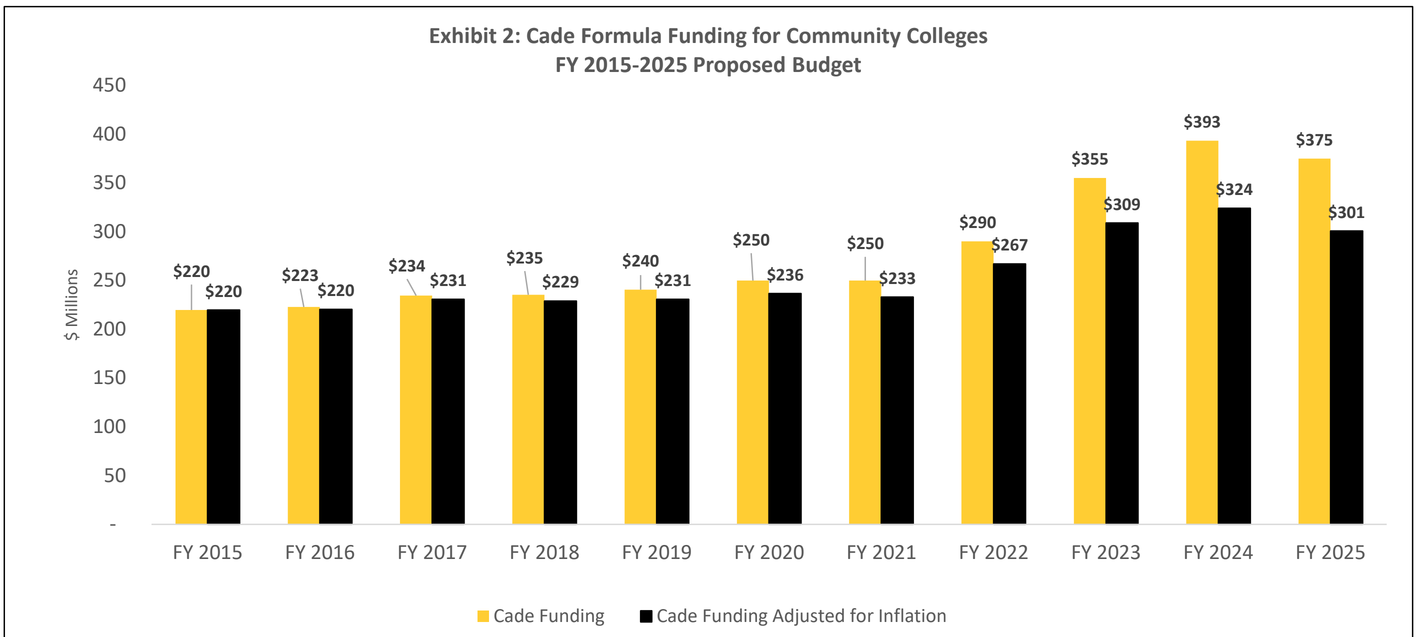


DLS: Department of Legislative Services

Mandate Relief

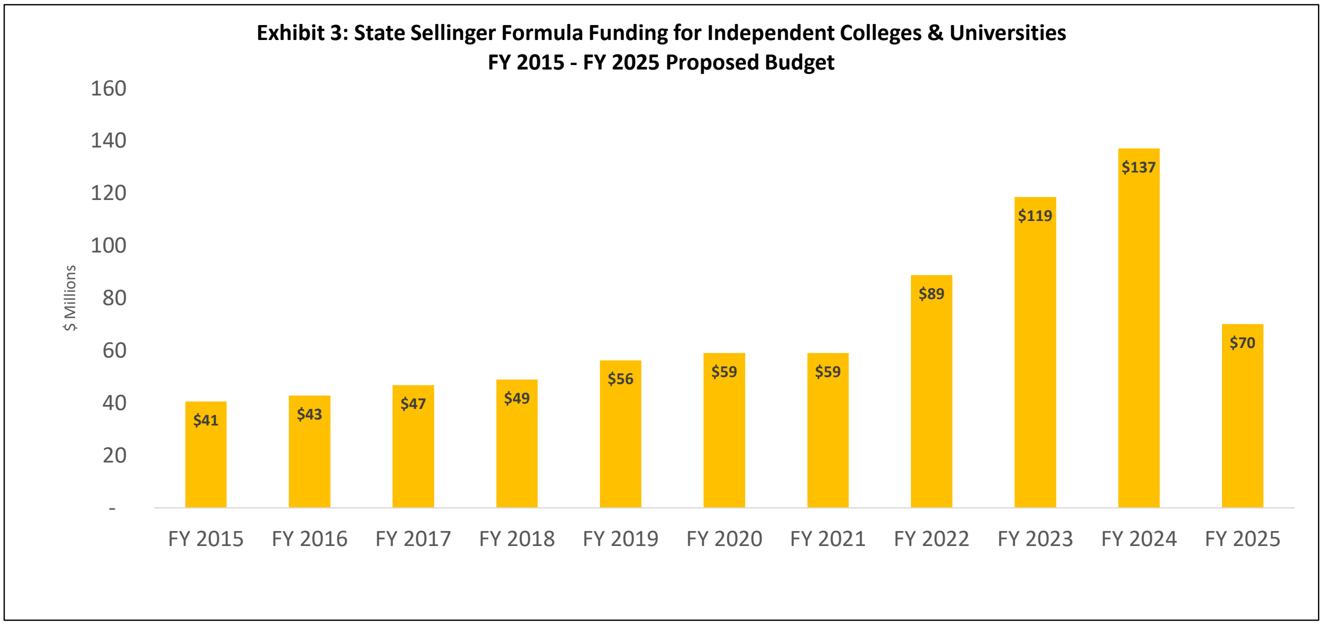
The BRFA allows the Administration to propose meaningful mandate relief in both the short and long-term to address the State's structural budget challenge. To this end, the BRFA includes the following provisions:

- Makes funding for the Maryland Native Plants Program discretionary.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings: $100,000
    - An Administration amendment to the budget bill proposes to increase the savings by an additional $150,000.
- Shifts the Financial Consumer Protection Mandate from General to Special Funds.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings: $700,000
- Delays additional funding for the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund by one year from FY 2025 to FY 2026 and makes the funding discretionary in light of the delay in implementing the program.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings: $10 million
- Rebases funding for the Cade Formula for Community Colleges in FY 2025 and the out-years. Under current law, funding for the local community colleges has grown by 57 percent since FY 2021. The BRFA provision still allows for more than 50 percent growth in funding over the last 4 years—an increase of $125 million versus the $250 million in funding just 4 years ago. After adjusting for declining community college enrollment, per FTE spending grows by 86% from FY 2021 to FY 2025.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $22.6 million



- Rebases funding for the Sellinger Formula for Non Public Higher Education Institutions by tying the formula to undergraduate enrollment only rather than total enrollment. Under current law, funding for private colleges and universities has grown by 132 percent since

FY 2021. After the BRFA provision, funding for the program will grow by 19 percent over the last 4 years. FY 2025 GF savings - $63.8 million

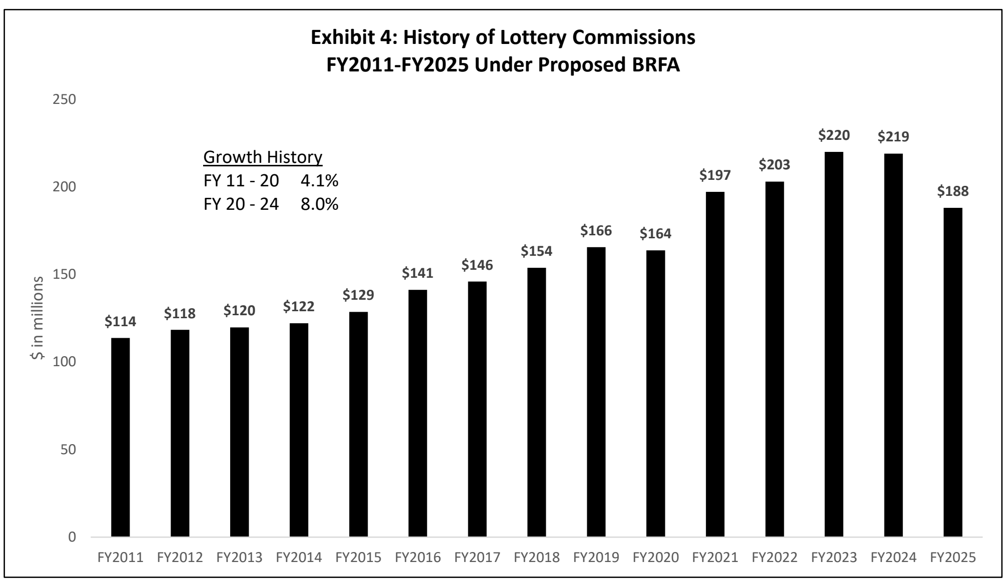


- Allows the Business Façade Improvement Program to be funded with General Obligation Bonds or General Funds in FY 2025 and the out years.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $5 million
- Suspends the General Fund mandate for the Fisheries Research and Development Fund for one year as there is sufficient balance in the Fund to support the appropriation.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $1.8 million
- Reduces funding for the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives and Fellowship Fund by $500,000 in FY 2025 and the outyears. Prior to FY 2024 funding for this program was only $50,000 a year.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $500,000
- Shifts the Tree Plantings on Public Lands mandate from General to Special Funds for FY 2024 through FY 2031. There is sufficient revenue in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund to support these expenditures.
    - FY 2024 GF Savings: $2.5 million
    - FY 2025 GF Savings: $2.5 million
- Reduces funding for Warrant and Absconding Grants by $1 million in FY 2025 and FY 2026 because the funding has not been fully spent in recent years.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $1 million
- Repeals the required "sweeper" contribution to the Rainy Day Fund for FY 2025 only, leaving a balance equal to 9.4% of the December 2023 Board of Revenue Estimates' projection of FY 2025 General Fund revenues.
    - FY 2025 GF savings - $495.5 million
- Repeals the required "sweeper" contributions to the Postretirement Health Benefits Trust Fund and State Retirement and Pension Fund for FY 2025 only.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $50 million

- Rebases funding for the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission and eliminates mandated growth in the future. In FY 2020, the agency spent $9.4 million in General Funds. Their FY 2025 allowance before the BRFA would be $13.3 million, a more than 40% increase. The allowance reduces this by $1 million so the increase over FY 2020 is closer to 30%.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $1 million

Revenue Adjustments

- Reduces the downward adjustment to General Fund revenues from Revenue Volatility to $100 million in FY 2025 and 2026.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $40 million
- Increases interest revenue to the General Fund for FY 2025 through FY 2028 by limiting the number of special funds allowed to earn interest on their fund balances.
    - FY 2024 GF Savings - $2.25 million
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $27 million
- Reduces the commissions paid to Lottery agents from 6.0% to 5.5% on sales and from 3.0% to 2.0% on cashing. Under current law, lottery commissions have grown by $56 million, or 34 percent, since FY 2020. After the BRFA provision, lottery agent commissions will grow by closer to 15 percent over the last 5 years. The proposed adjustments also bring Maryland's commission rates more in line with neighboring states.
    - FY 2024 GF Savings - $3 million
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $32 million



- Repeals the underutilized Small Business Tax Relief Credit Program. Although the estimated revenue loss is $1.3 million annually, the Department of Commerce reports that less than $10,000 in credits have been approved since the program's inception.
    - FY 2025 GF Savings - $1.3 million

Fund Transfers / Authorized Uses

The BRFA expands the allowable use of certain funds or revenues for specified purposes.

- Expands the use of the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund to allow funding to support School-based behavioral health services provided through a Medicaid waiver.
    - FY 2025 GF cost avoidance: $12,700,000
- Transfers $3 million from health regulatory boards (below) to offset General Fund costs in the Behavioral Health Administration. All three boards have fund balances in excess of 150 percent of FY 2025 expenditures.
    - Professional Counselors and Therapists - $1,648,669
    - Occupational Therapy - $776,646
    - Examiners for Psychologists - $588,771
- Transfers $216,845 from the Health Information Exchange Fund in FY 2025 to the Medical Programs Administration to support information technology activities.

In addition, the bill authorizes the following transfers to the General Fund:

- $149.5 million in the Dedicated Purpose Accoount reserved for Cybersecurity;
- $44.0 million in the Dedicated Purpose Account reserved for capital projects that are no longer needed as follows:
    - $28.9 million for renovations to 2100 Guilford Avenue;
    - $9.1 million for the renovation and expansion of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management Headquarters; and
    - $6.0 for Conowingo Dam dredging.
- $40 million in excess funds in the reserve account established by the State to pay unemployment compensation for State employees;
- $5.75 million from the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund;
- $5.0 million from the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund; and
- $355,760 in the Dedicated Purpose Account for miscellaneous operating expenses.

Cost Avoidance

- Authorizes MSDE to implement a freeze in the Child Care Scholarship program enrollment, if needed, to ensure that the program is able to live within its newly expanded funding levels in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
    - FY 2025 GF cost avoidance: unknown
- Allows MDH to establish a limit on the dollar amount of individual-directed and family-directed goods and services provided to a recipient.
    - FY 2025 GF cost avoidance: unknown

MDOT Proposals

The BRFA includes several provisions needed to align programmed spending with available funding in support of the January 2024 Consolidated Transportation Program.

- Reduces funding for State of Good Repair expenses in the Maryland Transit Administration by $11 million in FY 2025 only.
  - FY 2025 SF savings: $11.0 million
  - If the MTA capital items in Supplemental Budget #1 are approved, this BRFA item can be deleted.
- Provides the Maryland Transit Administration with flexibility in the replacement of the State transit bus fleet in case certain zero-emission buses are not available to be purchased.
  - FY 2025 SF cost avoidance: unknown
- Eliminates the requirement for validation tabs on license plates.
  - FY 2025 SF savings: $1.1 million
- Modifies the Highway User Revenue formula to maintain level funding in FY 2026 and FY 2027. Changes are needed to balance MDOT's 6-year capital program.
  - FY 2025 SF savings: None

Other

The BRFA also:

- Authorizes the transfer of $90 million from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Dedicated Purpose Account. The funding will be used to support the implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 and Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. A majority of the funding must support programs helping low and moderate-income families or overburdened or underserved communities.
- Allows DBM to publish online budget books.
  - FY 2025 GF savings - $40,000

Proposed Amendments

The Administration is offering 9 amendments to the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 (attached) to the bill as introduced. These amendments make clarifications and modifications to provisions of the first reading file bill itself and provide additional budget relief in support of the Governor's budget plan.

Departmental Position

The Department of Budget and Management believes that the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024, as amended, is necessary to ensure a balanced FY 2025 budget and to provide out-year structural budget relief. For these reasons, we urge the Committees to vote favorable with amendments on SB 362 / HB 352.

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 362 / HOUSE BILL 352
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 20, after line 21 insert:

"15-1004.

(a) There is a Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program Fund.

(f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Fund may be used only for the administration, operation, and activities of the Program.

(2) [For fiscal year 2018 only,] **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER**, excess funds not required for the administration, operation, and activities of the Program may be used only to subsidize:

(i) The Kidney Disease Program under Title 13, Subtitle 3 of this article; or

(ii) The provision of mental health services to the uninsured under Title 10, Subtitle 2 of this article.

Expands the allowable uses of the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program Fund to include the Kidney Disease program and certain mental health services for the uninsured.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 22, strike lines 3 through 6 and in line 7, strike "**[**", "**]**", and "**2025**"

Clarifies that the intent of the provision is to support the cost of Tree Plantings with the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays in FY 2024 in addition to FY 2025 through FY 2031.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 22, after line 12 insert:

"3–206.1.

(a) In this section, "Fund" means the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission Fund.

(g) The Fund may be used **[**only**]** to **[**provide funding to**]** **SUPPORT POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF** the **[**Commission**]** **COMMISSIONS**."

Expands the allowable uses of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission Fund to include correctional training activities in addition to police training activities.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 23, in line 21 strike “$120,000,000” and insert “$**0**”, and in line 22 strike “**$100,000,000**” and insert “**$0**”, and in line 22 strike “**[**“ and “**] YEARS**” and in line 23 strike “**AND 2026;** and” and insert “**;**”, and after line 23 insert “**7. $100,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND**”, and in line 24 strike “7” and insert “**8**”

Adjusts the revenue adjustment under the Revenue Volatility legislation to $0 in both fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 26, after line 8 insert:

“Article – State Personnel and Pensions

21–308.

(4) (i) For fiscal year 2016 **THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2024**, in addition to the annual required contribution required under paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Governor shall include in the budget bill a supplemental contribution of $75,000,000.

(ii) For fiscal year **[**2017**] 2025** and each fiscal year thereafter, in addition to the annual required contribution required under paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Governor shall include in the budget bill a supplemental contribution of **[**$75,000,000**] $50,000,000** until the total actuarial value of assets for the several systems divided by the total actuarial accrued liability for the several systems equals a funding ratio of 85%.”

Reduces the requirement to include a supplemental pension contribution from $75 million to $50 million.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 35, in lines 15 strike “$40,000,000” and insert “**$60,000,000**”

Increases the amount of the transfer from the State’s (self-insured) reserve account established to pay unemployment compensation for State employees.

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 35, in line 18 strike “and”, and in line 20 strike “.” and insert “**;**”, and after line 20 insert “**(4) $10,000,000 FROM THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REVOLVING LOAN FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER §5–315 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND (5) ALL REMAINING FUNDS IN THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RATE STABILIZATION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTIONS 19-801 THROUGH 19-808 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE.**’

Transfers $10 million from the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund and the remaining balance of the Rate Stabilization Fund previously abolished under Chapter 538 of the Acts of 2020 to the General Fund.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 36, in line 6 strike “$193,830,236” and insert **“$193,626,076**” and in line 16 strike “$355,760” and insert “**$151,600**”

Adjusts the transfer of miscellaneous operating expenses to $151,600, which represents the remaining / unused grant funds originally awarded to the Center for Neuroscience of Social Injustice at Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System.

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 36, after line 30 insert:

“SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, on or before June 30, 2023, the Governor may broaden the allowable use of a PAYGO grant provided under the Miscellaneous Grants – Capital Appropriation (H00H01.03) that was included in the fiscal year 2024 operating budget (Chapter 101 of the Acts of 2023) to provide funding to the Living Classrooms Foundation to include insurance expenses.”

And in line 31 strike “10” and insert “**11**”

Expands the allowable uses of an FY 2024 PAYGO grant for the Living Classrooms Foundation to allow funding to cover insurance expenses.

SB362.Council.Oppose CCSP.pdf
Uploaded by: Rachel London
Position: INFO

Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 362: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024
February 29, 2024
Position: Oppose the Implementation of a Freeze in the Child Care Scholarship Program

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council supports the Child Care Scholarship Program because of the positive impact on children with disabilities and their families. The Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible families in Maryland. The eligible family receives a voucher to use to purchase child care directly from the provider of their choice. Services are provided to eligible families based on an established categories and priorities. Within in each category, eligible families experiencing homelessness and eligible families of children with disabilities are given first priority.

Programs must provide children with disabilities and their families an equal opportunity to participate in the child care program and services by providing reasonable modifications, accommodations, and provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication.[i] Some of these additional accommodations may be costly. In recognition of that, **Maryland law allows for increased CCSP reimbursement rates to a child care provider for the additional costs of providing one-time or ongoing accommodations to a child with a disability – up to 15% above the traditional reimbursement rates or more if approved by MSDE.**[ii]

Since the early 1990s, Maryland families, children, and child care providers have dealt with several long periods of CCSP enrollment freezes and waiting list. The state agency responsible for administering the CCSP made each cost-containment decision unilaterally. **That was, until last year when the General Assembly removed the sole authority for implementing enrollment freezes and waiting lists from the Department and ensured an opportunity for review and possible action by the General Assembly.**

HB352 would change that again by allowing the Department to implement an enrollment freeze. This would significantly impact families of children with disabilities. The cost of raising a child with disabilities is already higher than raising a child without disabilities. Taking away the possibility of child care is not feasible for many families. **The Maryland General Assembly should work with the Administration to identify the funding necessary to ensure that the CCSP remains affordable with no additional enrollment freezes.**

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

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[i] Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (2009).
[ii] COMAR 13A.14.06.11(E)(5).

217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1300 • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410.767.3670 • md-council.org
Dee Sapp, *Chairperson* • Rachel London, Esq., *Executive Director*

Climate Partners_State Budget Support for $90M tow
Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr
Position: INFO

marylandclimatepartners

Committee: Budget & Taxation

Testimony on: SB 362 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024

Hearing Date: February 29, 2024

Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

Climate Partners is writing in support of a one-time $90M allocation in the FY2025 Moore-Miller budget to implement the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

The administration is committed to its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieving 100% clean energy by 2035.

At least 50 percent of the funding will help uplift communities that have been historically overburdened and underserved and will be put toward three initiatives:

- $17 million for grants to purchase and lease electric school buses to serve Maryland public school students;
- $23 million for grants to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in low and moderate income communities; and
- $50 million for grants to electrify hospitals, schools, multi-family housing, and other community buildings.

We hope to see this funding as proposed in the final budget. Climate Partners looks forward to supporting these programs, and continuing to work with the Moore administration and the Maryland General Assembly to ensure the success of Maryland's ambitious climate agenda and the realization of a fully funded, effective climate strategy that benefits all Marylanders.

Signed,

CASA
Center for Progressive Reform
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Climate XChange
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Fix Maryland Rail
Howard County Climate Action
Institute for Market Transformation
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVa)
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Progressive Maryland
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Climate Partners is a coalition of over one hundred environmental, faith, consumer advocacy and social justice organizations focused on ensuring equitable implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA). The coalition formed in 2021 to support the passage of bold climate legislation, engaging thousands of Marylanders to contribute their voice to this critical conversation. Climate Partners believes that robust public participation is essential for the development and implementation of equitable climate policy.