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**BILL NO.:**            **HB 607**

**TITLE:**                Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise  
Scholarship – Requirements

**SPONSOR:**           Delegate Harris

**COMMITTEE:**        Appropriations

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 20, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 607 – Community Colleges – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship – Requirements, which expands Maryland College Promise scholarships to include workforce certificate programs. The expansion of the Maryland College Promise will make workforce development programs more accessible and will help ensure the affordability of community college workforce certificate programs.

In partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Baltimore County launched the Baltimore County College Promise Program. This scholarship opportunity mirrors the Maryland College Promise program while also expanding eligibility to include workforce credentials and part-time enrollees. Last year, Baltimore County provided \$4.6 million dollars to the program. This has led to Baltimore County providing nearly universal free community college to its residents. CCBC reports that 98% of students who received workforce credentials received financial relief. As a result, workforce credentialing programs have increased anywhere from 69% to 115%. These figures represent Maryland residents who are now equipped with the knowledge and skills to pursue a career.

With the reduction of Cade funding and the sunset of federal relief funding, it will be increasingly difficult for our community colleges to continue to provide much needed financial relief to our residents. Baltimore County has led the way by expanding College Promise programs to include workforce programs and we remain committed to building a strong and vibrant workforce in Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 607 from the House Appropriations committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).