Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 864
Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Designation as Community of Innovation
February 14, 2024
Letter of Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 864.

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research, and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership. UMBC has over 14,000 students, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, representing Marylanders throughout the state.

In addition to the many students at UMBC's home campus in Catonsville, we are proud to educate many of our students on the Shady Grove campus. The Shady Grove campus hosts many of UMBC's most popular majors including Computer Science, Psychology, Social Work, Mechanical Engineering, and Masters Degrees in Biotechnology, Cybersecurity, Data Science, and Industrial/Organizational Psychology. In addition, UMBC's Translational Life Science Technology degree has become an active part of Montgomery County's thriving life science industry.

Senate Bill 864 puts into law what Higher Education in Maryland already knows – that the Universities at Shady Grove is a Community of Innovation. Under the leadership of Dr. Anne Khademian, USG has taken critical steps to grow career pathways; build a financial model focused on supporting growth, innovation, and collaboration; and keep a focus on student success. For the last twenty years, USG has provided success to students of all backgrounds and helped to grow our state's workforce. UMBC is proud of our partnership with USG, and look forward to continued success for the state and our shared students.

We urge a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 864.