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Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
**SB 603: University of Maryland, College Park Campus –
TerpsEXCEED Program – Funding**

February 12, 2025

Position: Support

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 (IDD).

The TerpsEXCEED program was created in large part by a grant from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council a few years ago with a goal of increasing post-secondary educational programming for individuals with IDD. This effort came after another program, run through the Towson University through a Think: College initiative ended abruptly and left a void in opportunity for people with IDD who wished to continue to learn after high school.

The TerpsEXCEED program provides students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in two years of college campus life, with coursework, living and learning accommodations, and a peer mentor component to promote inclusion and an immersive experience. Students who participate in the program spend their two years at college taking classes in subjects of interest to them, and upon completion, receive a certificate from the Office of Extended Studies. Graduates have gone on to become employed, volunteer, and be leaders in their communities.

Due to generous contributions from school Alumni and other funding sources, the program has been able to survive for the past 4 years, but a more sustainable funding sources must be identified for this important program to continue. SB 603 states that beginning in FY27, the Governor “may” include \$350,000 in the annual budget bill for the TerpsEXCEED Program. This creates a mechanism through which the Governor may include this appropriation designated for the TerpsEXCEED program specifically, and if there are sufficient funds to do so.

The TerpsEXCEED program is valuable resource for adults with IDD, and a model college program for other states to follow. We request a favorable report on SB 603.

For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director
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