



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

CENTER FOR TRANSITION
AND CAREER INNOVATION

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Guy Guzzone, James Rosapepe, Jeff Waldstreicher, and
Craig Zucker
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators Zucker, Feldman, Guzzone, Rosapepe, and Waldstreicher,

The Center for Transition and Career Innovation (CTCI) at the University of Maryland urges your support for college students with disabilities in Maryland and beyond. Inclusive higher education programs focus on four key areas: academic growth, social development, independent living, and career advancement. We advocate for the Governor to include funding in the annual budget bill, starting in FY 2027, for the University of Maryland's **TerpsEXCEED** (Experiencing College through Education and Employment Discovery) program, which provides students with intellectual disabilities access to education and employment opportunities.

CTCI conducts national research on school-to-work transitions for youth with disabilities, offering professional development, technical assistance, and service evaluations. Our work informs policies that improve transition services and post-school outcomes for Maryland students.

We see firsthand how inclusive higher education programs foster employment success.

TerpsEXCEED integrates academics, employment, and campus inclusion, offering students the chance to take classes, live on campus, and participate in internships with direct career support. Individualized goal-setting and career planning ensure long-term employment and financial stability beyond graduation.

On behalf of CTCI, we urge you to work with your congressional colleagues to draft and support bipartisan legislation that strengthens institutional support for TerpsEXCEED students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy H. Stuart".

Christy H. Stuart, Ed.D
Director
cstuart3@umd.edu 410-905-5356

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli Crane".

Kelli Thuli Crane, Ph.D.
Co-Director, CTCI
kcrane@umd.edu 240-418-2684