

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 26
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613
PHONE: (410) 228-1700
FAX: (410) 228-9641

JAY L. NEWCOMB, PRESIDENT
LIBBY HANDLEY NAGEL, VICE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS
GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR.
RICKY C. TRAVERS



DONNA F. LANE
ACTING COUNTY MANAGER
E. THOMAS MERRYWEATHER
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Opposition for House Bill 894 Entitled "Education-Community Colleges-Collective Bargaining"

Dear Delegate McIntosh, Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, we respectfully oppose House Bill 894 entitled "Education-Community Colleges-Collective Bargaining" which establishes a collective bargaining process for local community college employees and Baltimore City Community College, including full-time faculty, part-time faculty and staff, but excluding officers, supervisory or confidential employees and student assistants.

The County Council opposes this legislation because it will replace the current bargaining process that has existed for years in our local communities. Specified employees will be allowed to bargain collectively over wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment. Consequently, individuals unfamiliar with local government needs and funding challenges will be making decisions that may have a significant budgetary impact.

The County Council also opposes this legislation because it will increase community college expenditures which may be passed onto the support counties of local community colleges. The County Council is also concerned that State Higher Education Labor Relations Board expenditures will also rise, which may negatively impact the State budget.

For the reasons outlined above, the County Council implores you to look unfavorably upon House Bill 894. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700.

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay L. Newcomb, President

jln/dl

cc: The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Delegate