

2/8/2021

**House Bill 894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining
SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson McIntosh, members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am Jorge Sanchez, a Montgomery College Alumni and former assistant coach for the men's soccer program. I would like to give my testimony and be here in support for bill HB894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining. Having been a student and coach at Montgomery College, I have seen the positive and lasting effects of collective bargaining without having any economic bearing on the students. Every other community college student in Maryland deserves the same benefit.

I coached at Montgomery College from fall 2018 to spring 2019, and I graduated from Montgomery College in the spring of 2019. During my time at Montgomery College, my tuition stayed consistent and remained affordable all 5 years. Upon graduation, other coaches informed me of job opportunities at other community colleges. After talking to other coaches and speaking to other professors at other schools, I found out that Montgomery College had already unionized. From a coaching perspective it began to make sense, as more and more student athletes came in from other community colleges like CCBC, Anne Arundel, and PGCC. Over the last two to three years the Montgomery College Men's soccer team has seen a significant increase in transfers and a decrease in freshmen. Besides the soccer, student athletes come to us because of the consistent class size, accessible office hours, and safe learning environment.

Every student in Maryland deserves the same experience that I had, and collective bargaining would make that possible.

I ask that you vote "yes" on HB 894, and I strongly urge a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,
Jorge Emilio Sanchez
MC Alumnus
Former Assistant Coach, MC Men's Soccer