



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 746

**Education – Community Colleges
- Collective Bargaining**

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: March 4, 2021
Committee: Finance

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner shares support for Senate Bill – 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining.

Our community colleges promote and provide access to the pursuit of higher education. The faculty and staff at these institutions play critical roles generating meaningful economic and social mobility for the students they serve.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Supports the goal to expand the right to bargain in Maryland to the faculty and staff of community colleges;
- Empowers community college faculty and staff to decide for themselves as to whether a union would be beneficial and support their needs;
- Preserves employee choice by providing the option to participate in a union if the option were available;
- Confirms the State's trust in its public employees, first responders, and the majority of Maryland educators with the right to advocate for themselves and to negotiate by conferring the same opportunity to community college staff; and
- Requires that proposed agreements are subject to funding by the governing body, similar to other employee groups.