

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 17, 2021

Testimony submitted by:

Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D. Executive Director

SB 894: Post-Crisis Jobs Act of 2021

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing all of Maryland's community colleges, opposes the section of this legislation that would require 75% of any increase in the total state operating funds granted to community colleges in FY 23 through FY 25 be allocated for workforce training.

Community colleges are the primary providers of Maryland's workforce training programs that lead to licensure, certification, and credential achievement. Community colleges must have the flexibility to allocate their operating funds to serve the interests of all students. The mission of these institutions is to continue to provide the highest quality and most cost-effective workforce training and education to their students. As drafted, this legislation would inhibit our institutions' ability to allocate scarce operating funding where it is most needed.

We ask the Committee to delete the following language:

Page 4, beginning with line 5 delete the following: (2) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2025, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ALLOCATE 75% OF ANY INCREASE IN THE TOTAL STATE OPERATING FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING.

MACC supports the sections of this legislation that calls for a Digital Learning Conversion Grant program within the Department of Education and looks forward to strengthening our partnerships with K-12 and dually enrolled student programs.

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