

Testimonies for USG on HB 1446 for Senate hearing

Uploaded by: Anne Khademian

Position: FAV

**Testimonies for HB 1446 from Dr. Anne Khademian, The Honorable Ike Leggett, Mr. Ken Mills,
Ms. Shirley Brandman, and Mr. Francisco Cartagena
Maryland Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
March 30, 2022**

Testimony by Dr. Anne Khademian

Executive Director, The Universities at Shady Grove

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Hearing for HB 1446

March 30, 2022 – 1 p.m.

Senators, thank you for the opportunity to address you today in support of HB 1446. Thank you in particular to Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee Chair Nancy King, who we are so pleased to have as a member of the Universities at Shady Grove Board of Advisors.

I'm Anne Khademian and I have the privilege of serving as Executive Director of the Universities at Shady Grove. USG is the largest of the University System of Maryland's three regional higher education centers and offers nearly 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs from nine of our outstanding public universities on one campus, in the heart of Montgomery County. In collaboration with our nine university partners, we offer upper-division undergraduate programs and graduate programs, as well as post-baccalaureate certificate programs, and credentialing and training opportunities.

Recently, we launched what we call "USG 2.0," a strategic plan to help chart our institution's course for the next decade. It's a plan that places that focuses squarely on career readiness and on building pathways to successful and meaningful careers for all students who attend the USG campus. It's also a plan that addresses our fiscal sustainability by building an educational model that supports growth, innovation and collaboration, with a focus on return on investment (ROI) for students and all other stakeholders – such as the businesses and employers that depend on a thriving workforce.

This bill aims to meet the needs of those important stakeholders head on, by investing in programs from our university partners that directly support the workforce development needs of our region and state. In particular, we will focus on growing and bringing in more of the in-demand, undergraduate and graduate degree or certification programs that are most needed in the workforce, in areas such as life sciences, teaching, behavioral health and information technology.

We are working closely with our educational partners at the K-12 and community college level – and of course with our university partners – to build solid, seamless pathways that will help to lead students into these highly sought-after industries. Most importantly, we will be laser-focused on ensuring that students emerge with the skills and knowledge they need to hit the ground running as they launch their careers and help to grow our local and state economy.

Last week, we were proud and honored to host a farewell event for one of our most stalwart university partners, longtime UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski. As all of you know, he will be retiring soon after 30 amazing years of leadership. As part of that tribute, I hosted an on-stage conversation with Dr. Hrabowski. One of the things he highlighted was the important role that the USG campus plays, in particular, when it comes to workforce development. Dr. Hrabowski made specific reference to the kinds of students who choose the Shady Grove campus for their studies and he said: "We want to build a workforce based on affordability, accountability, access and success," all of which he noted are the hallmark of USG.

With the additional investment that HB 1446 would provide specifically for programs that will meet workforce demands, we can do just that. We will be able to turn out more career-ready graduates who benefit from the "affordability, accountability, access and success" that embodies the student experience at the Universities at Shady Grove. Thank you.

HB1446 -- Universities at Shady Grove Regional Hig

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**House Bill 1446 -- *Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center -
Workforce Development Programs - Funding*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 30, 2022
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 1446 -- *Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center - Workforce Development Programs - Funding*.

House Bill 1446 requires that if the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) Regional Higher Education Center does not receive funding in the FY2023 operating budget, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5 million each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025. These funds are provided in addition to USG's existing funding and are to be used to establish or support workforce development programs.

Established in 2000 and one of three University System of Maryland higher education centers, USG offers select degree programs from nine public Maryland universities all at one campus in Montgomery County. USG's innovative approach to higher education creates new career opportunities and improves Maryland's regional workforce by providing highly educated and skilled employees that meet the needs of employers.

MCCC contends that the funding in House Bill 1446 is an initial investment that builds new capacities for USG's workforce efforts. For Montgomery County's economy to grow and prosper, it needs innovative higher education and workforce development assets focused on accessible and affordable education pathways that lead directly to the workforce. MCCC is also supportive of the funding's potential to continue creating education pathways that maintain a focus on those in Montgomery County who are underrepresented in higher education.

MCCC supports House Bill 1446 because it brings additional, more robust talent development programming for small businesses and high demand industries. This is important because MCCC members have identified the attraction and retention of quality employees as their top concern. Higher education institutions like USG seek to close workforce gaps and address labor market issues that have only been exacerbated since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 1446 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

*Brian Levine / Vice President of Government Affairs
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street / Suite 1800
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-738-0015 / www.mcccmd.com*

HB1446 - Senate_FAV_MTC_Universities at Shady Grov

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Jared Solomon

FROM: Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 30, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1446 – *Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Workforce Development Programs – Funding*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1446.

As amended, House Bill 1446 requires that if the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) Regional Higher Education Center does not receive funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget then the Governor must include a \$5 million appropriation in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 for USG to establish or support workforce development programs. USG's approach to higher education is designed to connect local college students to outstanding career opportunities, while providing regional employers with a highly educated, skilled workforce. MTC supports funding workforce development programs, which will provide solutions to our workforce shortage, and help students navigate the available career pathways. For these reasons a favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

HB1446_Solomon_FAV - B&T.pdf

Uploaded by: Jared Solomon

Position: FAV

JARED SOLOMON
Legislative District 18
Montgomery County

Appropriations Committee
Subcommittees

Education and Economic Development
Oversight Committee on Personnel



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 222
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3130 · 410-841-3130
800-492-7122 Ext. 3130
Fax 301-858-3233 · 410-841-3233
Jared.Solomon@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony on HB 1446 – Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Workforce Development Programs - Funding
March 30, 2022 – Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Good afternoon Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Colleagues.

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on my legislation HB 1446 – Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Workforce Development Programs – Funding. It's an honor to testify before you this afternoon.

For those who may not be familiar with the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), it is by far the largest of the University System of Maryland's (USM) three regional higher education centers – located in Montgomery County.

Nine university partners within the USM provide academic programs at USG, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Their primary focus is serving the most pressing workforce needs of the region, with tailored programs aimed at creating a pipeline of graduates in high-demand industries, such as life sciences, teaching, behavioral health, and IT.

USG's focus is serving the non-traditional student, including students who are first in their family to go to college, who both work and attend school, who serve as caretakers for family members, and who began their educational path at the local community college.

Why is HB 1446 important and what will it enable USG to do?

HB 1446 would provide \$5 million in targeted funding, in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, to enable USG to enhance and expand programs, services, and trainings to create, sustain, and retain a viable workforce. Funding would support technical skill training, career advising, public-private partnerships with local industry leaders, apprenticeships and on-the-job training, research opportunities, and educational initiatives that prepare students for the current and future economy. Students will receive the skill development, employment support, and continuing education programs needed to maximize their job success and career pathway.

Our higher education institutions find themselves at a crossroads as they emerge from the pandemic. Enrollment at many institutions is down, at a time when demand for highly skilled, career-ready talent in the workforce is greater than ever and an increasing number of jobs require four-year degrees or greater. Montgomery County ranks among the highest in the nation for the

number of life sciences companies.ⁱ We continue to be at the forefront of the biotechnology industry, witnessing a growth in life sciences employment by 39% since 2010.ⁱⁱ Maryland is a national leader in cell therapy research and development. These job opportunities require a highly skilled workforce.

At the same time, almost 40% of American employers state they are unable to secure enough skilled workers to meet their needs.ⁱⁱⁱ Nearly 60% of employers complain that potential employees lack the preparation for even entry-level jobs.^{iv} We need a workforce that matches the employment needs of business. USG’s workforce development programs can close this “skills gap.” Their targeted technical and educational training programs, tailored to the capabilities of their students that matches the employment needs of industry, will create a win-win for Maryland students, businesses, and economy.

I urge the Committee to provide a favorable report for HB 1446.

ⁱ <https://wtop.com/business-finance/2021/04/the-big-business-covid-has-boosted-in-montgomery-county/>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/closing-the-skills-gap-creating-workforce-development-programs-that-work-for-everyone>

^{iv} Ibid.

HB 1446 USG - Workforce Development Programs - Fun

Uploaded by: Barbara Wilkins

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

HOUSE BILL 1446 Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Workforce Development Programs – Funding (Solomon)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 30, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB 1446, as amended, mandates an appropriation in the amount of \$5 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025, to the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center (USG), if the USG does not receive funding in the FY 2023 operating budget. The purpose of the funding is to establish or support workforce development programs at USG.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the aggregate \$10 million mandated appropriations that impact the FY 2024 and FY 2025 budgets.

The FY 2023 Budget allocates \$24.5 million for USG. State support to the University of Maryland System has included \$32 million in funding for workforce development activities across the System, including \$8.1 million for programs involving USG in whole or in part. This funding supports academic programs that fill critical workforce needs across the State. An additional \$23.5 million in State support has been appropriated since FY 2022 for public health and healthcare programs to fill health-related workforce needs.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project

45 Calvert Street · Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

Tel: 410-260-7041 · Fax: 410-974-2585 · Toll Free: 1-800-705-3493 · TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at (410) 260-6371
or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**