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BILL NO.: **SB 795**

TITLE: **Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions of
Higher Education – Funding**

SPONSOR: **Senator Guzzone**

COMMITTEE: **Budget and Taxation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 10, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 795 Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education – Funding. This legislation would provide funding for community colleges, as well as other non-profit higher education institutions.

Community colleges play a vital role in our community, providing affordable and accessible higher education to the residents who need it. With increasing tuition, a looming student debt crisis, and additional economic burdens brought on by the pandemic, community colleges serve as the perfect opportunity for many to enhance their education and gain exposure to better employment opportunities. Community colleges also have positive impacts on the State’s economy at large by preparing residents for the workforce and making Maryland a fierce contender for businesses to locate.

Senate Bill 795 would enhance funding for community colleges provided through the State General Fund. Community colleges primarily rely on public funding to sustain operations and provide students the quality, affordable education they deserve. As a former educator, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski has consistently prioritized improvements in education funding and infrastructure because he understands that quality of education cannot be sacrificed for affordability. This legislation would further Baltimore County’s efforts to provide students a world-class education and prepare the next generation to enter the workforce.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 795. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.

