



## **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2022**

### **TESTIMONY**

**Submitted by  
Dr. Maureen Murphy, President**

#### **SB795: Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education – Funding**

##### **Position: Favorable**

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I am writing in support of Senate Bill 795, which recognizes the value of community college students through increasing the funding per full-time equivalent student to 30% of the full-time equivalent student of the state's 4-year public full-time equivalent student.

Community colleges provide opportunities for social and economic mobility for students who would otherwise have no chance. An increase in funding assures that community colleges are able to keep tuition affordable for all students, especially low-income students who have been hit very hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 65% of the student body at the College of Southern Maryland attends part-time, nearly all are in the paid workforce, and almost half report they are the primary caregivers for people in their families. For these learners, affordability is critical. Without low-cost, local access, higher education simply isn't possible.

SB795 recognizes the reality of the lives of community college students, who are often lower-income, working adults, and student parents by ensuring low cost, high quality educational options exist for them close to home.

This bill is timely, and a powerful reminder of the social contract implicit in Title 16 of the Maryland Code which created community colleges as a pathway to social and economic mobility for all Maryland citizens. As we emerge from this pandemic, we see incredible workforce needs. Passing SB795 will help community colleges keep tuition affordable and consequently, the local workforce pipeline primed.

I urge you to give Senate Bill 795 a favorable report.

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