



**Senate Bill 918 -- *Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 15, 2023
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 918-- *Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations*.

Senate Bill 918 increases the number of grants from eight to 16 that the Maryland Higher Education Commission may make under the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program in each fiscal year. The bill further requires that in Fiscal Year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall annually appropriate an amount equal to 10% of the appropriation to the Community College Construction Grant program.

Community colleges play an integral role in Maryland's economy. These institutions address workforce and labor market issues through training, skills development, and providing a gateway to four-year colleges and universities. MCCC members have identified the attraction and retention of quality employees as their number one issue. Community colleges are a key to unlock a well-prepared and high-quality workforce that meets the needs of employers.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber supports Senate Bill 918 and 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.

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