Danielle Hornberger County Executive

Steven Overbay Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.5202 Email: dhornberger@ccgov.org



Jackie Gregory Council President

> Robert Meffley Vice President

Office: 410.996.5201 Email: council@ccgov.org

**CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT** 

Cecil County Administration Building 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Ben Barnes The Honorable Mark S. Chang Appropriations Committee Room 121 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0675 - Primary and Secondary Education – Education Savings Account Program – Established (Maryland Universal Choice Act) Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB 0675 - Primary and Secondary Education – Education Savings Account Program – Established. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled for March 6, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is establishing the Education Savings Account program in the State administered by the State Department of Education to provide grants to the account of the parent of an eligible student in order to provide for the eligible student's education; requiring the parent of an eligible student to participate in a certain agreement with the Department; and allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for deposits into an education savings account.

Cecil County supports this, and any bill, the creates programs that offers assistance to help us promote saving accounts and school choice for education.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee send a favorable report on HB 0675.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hornberger County Executive

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Jackie Gregory President of County Council

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