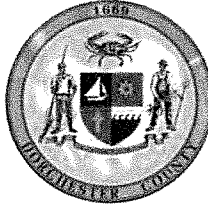


COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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**JEFF POWELL
INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER
MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor
State of Maryland
110 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Opposition – House Bill 352, “Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024”

Dear Governor Moore:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its opposition for House Bill 352 entitled “Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024,” for the certain purpose of altering the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for community colleges.

Altering the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for community colleges impacts the rural colleges significantly. Specifically, the budget for Chesapeake College will be reduced by 10%, and Wor-Wic Community College will be lowered by 11%. These decreases could reflect higher college tuition, the need for Counties to supplement the budgets, negatively impact colleges’ efforts in restoring enrollment, and/or puts programs, including workforce development in jeopardy, whereas community colleges have been tasked to close the skills gap in workforce shortages.

The Dorchester County Council encourages higher education and trade skills, however, the current economy has proven it difficult to balance the current budget at hand. Also, affordability for students remains the biggest barrier to success, making education further out of reach if tuition increases. Therefore, we ask that you do NOT look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of opposition. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

glp/ib

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Ben Barnes, Delegate; Chair, Appropriations Committee