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## EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Testimony by:**  
**Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**  
**January 24, 2024**

### **SB 81 – Higher Education – College of Southern Maryland – Budget**

**Position: Unfavorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community College (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, has concerns about SB 81, which would impact how regional community colleges are funded by their local government. Community colleges that provide postsecondary educational opportunities to residents of multiple counties need to be able to operate within a framework and budget that provides support for all students enrolled as is the mission of all community colleges.

The College of Southern Maryland is a regional college serving three counties with equal representation on the governing Board of Trustees. In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly authorized the College of Southern Maryland to operate under a unified budget, effective for Fiscal Year 2022. This authorization provides for an equitable distribution of local funding based on a student's county of residence as well as where they are taking classes, enabling the college to respond nimbly to students' needs, meet disparities and create equity.

Today, one operational budget for the College of Southern Maryland as a regional community college enables efficiencies and removes unnecessary duplications. The concern with SB81 is the potential for proposed changes to disrupt the collaborative spirit, operational efficiencies, and student equity that all Maryland's regional colleges have been able to achieve in working with its local jurisdictions through the one college operating budget. This legislation would repeal the ability to act in the best interest of students.

Because of these concerns, MACC urges an unfavorable report.