

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Anne Blackfield, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 11, 2025

BILL: HB 458 - University of Maryland, College Park Campus – TerpsEXCEED
Program – Funding

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Barnes:

Please accept this letter of information from the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) regarding HB 458. This legislation seeks to provide funding in FY 2027 in the amount of \$350,000 as an appropriation in the Governor's budget to the University of Maryland, College Park Campus TerpsEXCEED (Experiencing College through Education and Employment Discovery) Program to provide educational and employment opportunities to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

TerpsEXCEED is an inclusive post-secondary education program that provides Maryland students with IDD the chance to partake in a two-year college experience, including living on campus, which culminates in a certificate. Currently, this program is exclusively open to Maryland in-state residents. Residential post-secondary opportunities for this community in Maryland remain limited to the University of Maryland College Park.

Nationally, over 300 colleges and universities offer inclusive programs for students with IDD. When provided access and held to high expectations, these students exit these programs with increased opportunities for obtaining meaningful employment. According to Think College, the national technical assistance center for higher education for students with IDD, participants in post-secondary education were 26% more likely to exit the college program with employment, and their weekly wage earnings were 73% higher than those who had no post-secondary education experiences.

For more information on TerpsEXCEED or post-secondary education, please contact our Director of Employment and Transition Policy, Jade Gingerich, jade.gingerich@maryland.gov, or 410-767-3651.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary

