

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Sarah Wolek,  
222 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: University of Maryland College Park Campus TerpsEXCEED Program Funding

Dear Delegates Wolek, Solomon, Forbes, Guyton and Harris, and Distinguished Members of the Maryland House of Delegates,

Thank you so much for your support of House Bill 458.

My name is Christine Fleming and I am the parent of two UMD students who have benefited greatly from the TerpsEXCEED program: one daughter, Kit, who was a peer mentor and now another daughter, Gabby, who has an intellectual disability. I have known about the program since its inception.

Gabby began this program in fall of 2024. Already she has grown and matured in ways she could not have if it weren't for this unique opportunity. In the TerpsEXCEED Program, she lives independently, with all of the experiences of social and practical-life problem-solving that comes with the supported "soft launch" that happens in college. She is practicing time management, money management, communication and socialization in a real-world setting with real consequences in a supported environment. In the TerpsEXCEED Program Gabby receives guidance and exploration for career choices, based on *her* wishes and *her* abilities, and gets to try on roles in the microcosm that is the university environment. TerpsEXCEED will lead her to independent living, confident community integration, and a successful life.

We hope for the continued success and expansion of this valuable program. TerpsEXCEED positively impacts all stakeholders and community members, and sets the standard for what integration and inclusion looks like.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Fleming  
Terp Parent ('25, '26)  
Bethesda, Maryland

