

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
*Legislative District 14*  
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 120  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 603/House Bill 458 - University of Maryland, College Park Campus -**  
**TerpsEXCEED Program - Funding**  
**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**1:00pm**  
**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 603-University of Maryland, College Park Campus - TerpsEXCEED Program - Funding**, which would authorize – not mandate – the Governor to allocate up to \$350,000 annually, starting in fiscal year 2027, for the TerpsEXCEED Program at the University of Maryland.

Senate Bill 603 passed the Senate unanimously and is in the same posture as the cross-file, House Bill 458, which passed the House. I would like to thank Delegate Wolek for her leadership on House Bill 458.

TerpsEXCEED is Maryland's only fully inclusive postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities and stands as an exemplary model for Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE). Through this two-year certificate program, students engage in academic coursework, professional internships, on-campus housing, and extracurricular activities. Since its launch, 21 students with disabilities have participated in or are currently enrolled in the program, demonstrating significant success in improving employment outcomes for graduates.

TerpsEXCEED's impact reaches beyond the students directly participating. The program has trained over 150 undergraduate mentors and established strong partnerships with key state agencies, including the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), and the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD).

TerpsEXCEED currently operates on uncertain, year-to-year grant funding. The proposed discretionary funding would allow the program to sustain and expand its services, benefiting more students across Maryland.

This discretionary funding authorization would provide the flexibility to support this vital program. I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 603**. Thank you for your consideration.