



**Maryland Joint  
Legislative Committee**

*The Voice of Merit Construction*

**Mike Henderson**

*President  
Greater Baltimore Chapter  
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

**Chris Garvey**

*President & CEO  
Chesapeake Shores Chapter  
cgarvey@abc-chesapeake.org*

**Dan Bond CAE**

*President & CEO  
Metro Washington Chapter  
dbond@abcmetrowashington.org*

**Tricia Baldwin**

*Chairman  
Joint Legislative Committee  
tbaldwin@reliablecontracting.com*

**Marcus Jackson**

*Director of Government Affairs  
Metro Washington Chapter  
mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org*

Additional representation by:  
**Harris Jones & Malone, LLC**

6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive  
Suite F  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(T) (301) 595-9711  
(F) (301) 595-9718

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**TO:** EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS  
**RE:** S.B. 269 – MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - REVISIONS  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support S.B. 269 which is before you today for consideration. The legislation proposes revisions to the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program. This bill represents a crucial step in ensuring the program's effectiveness and accessibility for all Maryland students.

The current program, while well-intentioned, can inadvertently penalize students who pursue their associate's degrees part-time due to circumstances such as work, family obligations, or other personal challenges. The existing three-year time limit for award eligibility can be particularly burdensome for these students, potentially forcing them to forgo their education or incur significant debt.

S.B. 269's proposed amendment to Section 18-3604(c), extending the award eligibility timeframe to six years for part-time students pursuing associate's degrees, is a vital correction. This change acknowledges the diverse paths students take towards higher education and provides a more realistic and supportive framework for their success. It recognizes that part-time students often face unique obstacles and require additional time to complete their studies.

By allowing students up to six years to complete their associate's degree while maintaining scholarship support, S.B. 269 promotes greater equity and opportunity. It empowers part-time students to pursue their educational goals without the added pressure of a restrictive time limit, ultimately increasing their chances of graduation and contributing to Maryland's workforce.

Furthermore, the bill's retention of the provisions regarding satisfactory academic progress and continued eligibility requirements ensures that the scholarship funds are used responsibly and effectively.

This modest yet significant revision will strengthen the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program, making it a more effective tool for expanding access to higher education and fostering a more skilled and prosperous Maryland.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on S.B. 269.

Marcus Jackson, Director of  
Government Affairs

