



Anthony Featherstone
Executive Director
WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.
Montgomery County Local Workforce Development Board

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for House Bill 676

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Workforce Development Board and WorkSource Montgomery, Inc. (WSM), I am writing to strongly request your support for **House Bill 676**, which establishes the Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program. As you know, now more than ever, our residents need free-of-charge counseling services that financial empowerment centers offer to help navigate these challenging economic times.

There are several local financial empowerment centers established throughout the state already, including in Montgomery County. In partnership with United Way NCA and the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), WorkSource Montgomery's Financial Empowerment Center is located at its comprehensive American Job Center in Wheaton, MD. The model, which provides comprehensive financial advice tailored to both their short-term and long-term needs, has demonstrated success. Workforce development and financial empowerment are intrinsically connected. Not only do FECs foster personal empowerment and financial stability, but they also lead to community-wide economic stability.

We respectfully ask for your **support in advancing House Bill 676** to ensure that all Maryland residents have access to financial empowerment services through this Network Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Anthony Featherstone
Executive Director
WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.
Montgomery County Workforce Development Board

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