

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Capital Budget for Community Colleges

Testimony Submitted by Dr. Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D. Executive Director

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges is most appreciative of the Governor's inclusion of both Frederick Community College's Monroe Center and Montgomery College's Rockville Student Services Center in this year's community college capital grant program. Given the total capital fiscal allocation for community colleges, the addition of these two projects signifies recognition of our need for both new facilities and renovations of existing facilities.

However, MACC is concerned that the capital funding level for community college projects set by Governor Hogan's administration has now become the programmed funding level for all future community college projects. In real dollars, the prior programmed level of \$80 million has been reduced to the new level of \$60 million, which represents a reduction of \$100 million over the five-year capital improvement program.

MACC is also concerned about the impact of future requests due to the amount of preauthorized projects. With \$45.8 million in pre-authorizations taken out of next year's capital request, the community colleges will only have a total of \$14 million for new projects to be distributed among 15 colleges. This essentially halts any new projects from being constructed.

Furthermore, our space needs do not diminish with less funding, they become worse. This is not a savings for the State. Without adequate funding, our colleges are unable to meet the growing and innovative workforce needs. As the largest segment of postsecondary education, this reduction translates into an economic loss for Maryland. The students who attend our colleges are the backbone of our local, regional, and statewide economy.

Since the General Assembly can increase the capital amount for community colleges, we are asking for an additional \$7 million this year to fully fund all of the community college's capital needs. This would fund the College of Southern Maryland's Health Science Center, Harford Community College's Fallston Hall renovation, Hagerstown Community College's need for parking, and Prince George's Community College's Marlboro Hall renovation, which has already been differed two years due to lack of state support.

MACC is appreciative for those projects being funded, however we urge for increased support to fully fund all of our capital projects.