



**Testimony to the Maryland General Assembly
Presented by
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March 2026**

I am pleased to provide testimony to the General Assembly for the University of Maryland's FY 2027 capital budget request. We appreciate the General Assembly's ongoing support of our capital requests, which are transforming our campus and the entire state. Together, we are constructing the state's future and furthering the public good by producing well-qualified undergraduate and graduate students for Maryland's workforce, spurring innovation in Maryland's economy.

We have two projects in our capital request this year, Stanley R. Zupnik Hall and the Health and Human Sciences Complex. Zupnik Hall will significantly enhance the University's research, education, and innovation capabilities. Much of the work in this building will contribute to the state's skilled workforce and its knowledge economy. The Health and Human Sciences Complex will significantly enhance the University's public health research, education, and innovation capabilities and will contribute to supplying the state with additional skilled and critically needed public health workers.

Facilities renewal needs and space shortages remain our greatest long-term programmatic and fiscal challenges. The Health and Human Sciences Complex is essential to addressing these challenges and to advancing the state's strategic goals for the economy and workforce, as well as college completion goals.

Facilities Renewal Needs

The Health and Human Sciences Complex project will address facilities renewal through the renovation of the existing south wing of Cole Field House and by relocating existing School of Public Health spaces to new, fit-out shell space in the Cole Field House addition.

Space Shortages

Based on state formulas, the University of Maryland currently has a shortage of 0.95M NASF of state-supported space, 0.36M NASF of which is in research space. The proposed Zupnick Hall and Health and Human Sciences Complex will help address these deficits. Further details regarding our space shortages are attached.

Stanley R. Zupnik Hall

\$13.11M for Construction and Equipment

This project leverages a total of \$58.2M of donor funds, coupled with State funds, to construct a 163,692 GSF state-of-the-art engineering building for the A. James Clark School of Engineering. The building will house elements of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and elements of other departments in the Clark School. It will also include space for collaboration with institutional and industrial partners, including the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology, and spaces for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Society of Women Engineers and Black Engineers Society. It will enhance the University's ability to meet its strategic goals for growth of its engineering programs, secure sponsored research opportunities and contribute to the economic growth of the State and region.

In fall 2022, Stanley R. Zupnik, a 1959 alum of the Clark School who has been contributing to UMD for almost 40 years, made a \$25M pledge for this building. The majority will go toward long-term support for academic programs within the building and a portion is funding its construction.

Zupnik Hall will enhance the University's ability to produce more well-qualified engineers for Maryland's workforce and help spur innovation in Maryland's defense, construction, manufacturing, and cybersecurity industries, as well as the emerging fields of energy, transportation and unmanned vehicle systems. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that jobs for civil and environmental engineers are expected to increase by 9% from 2024 to 2034, and by the same amount for mechanical engineers. It also noted that with this building, the University expects to increase undergraduate majors in these fields by 15% and graduate majors by 29% by 2030 to help meet this demand. In addition, the building will support a projected 25% increase in the number of invention disclosures, patents, and licensing agreements as well as approximately 25 new start-up companies over the next decade.

The Clark School of Engineering's 2018 Academic Facilities Plan concluded that the Clark School needs an additional 223,000 NASF over the next 20 years in order to be competitive with its peers. Because the University overall has a space deficit of 0.95M NASF, with 0.36M NASF of that in research space, we cannot currently accommodate this growth without new facilities.

Zupnik Hall will add over 86,000 NASF of space, including about 36,000 NASF of modern research space to the campus inventory, enhancing the ability of faculty to secure research grants. Total research expenditures of the programs associated with this project are projected to grow from \$56M in FY 2020 to \$86.8M in FY 2030.

UMD awarded a design/build contract in December 2021 and started construction in December 2022. The \$13.11M requested in FY 2027 is needed to complete construction and purchase equipment. The building is on schedule to open fall 2026.

ZUPNIK HALL



Architect's rendering of the building looking east



View of the building March 2026 looking east

Health and Human Sciences Complex \$44,315M for Construction

The Health and Human Sciences Complex (HHSC) project will fit-out 149,304 GSF of shell space in New Cole Field House and implement programmatic improvements to 19,427 GSF of the original 1956 Cole Field House South Wing to create 89,782 Net Assignable Square Feet (NASF) of modern research and educational space for the School of Public Health (SPHL) and the Academy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIE). The Health and Human Sciences Complex (HHSC) will include 85,580 NASF for the School of Public Health to house research focused units (Department of Global, Environmental, and Occupation Health , the Department of Kinesiology, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and the Center for Healthy Families), the Dean’s Office and support staff. The HHSC will also include 3,602 NASF for the AIE, which will serve as a space to support and grow student innovation and entrepreneurship activities.

The current SPHL Building was originally named the North Gym and was constructed in two phases completed in 1973 and 1978. It was designed to provide recreational and academic space that was intended to primarily support physical education, with a small amount of research space that focused on human performance. Since then, the physical education and human performance programs have evolved to become the School of Public Health, now with 15 departments and centers and an expanded research mission. The constraints of the existing structure and building systems and lack of space have limited the ability to meet modern research and educational space needs, and forced the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics to relocate to another building on campus, the Atlantic Building. This project will provide an additional 40,000 NASF for SPHL, primarily in office and research spaces, to address current and projected space deficits and provide modern labs to better support scholarship and research.

The HHSC will enhance UMD’s ability to meet key strategic priorities of the Governor and the state of Maryland. Specifically, the project will:

- **Enhance Public Health:** Faculty in the Health and Human Science Complex will continue and expand their research work to strengthen Maryland’s ability to address pandemics/infectious disease transmission, wellness, obesity, aging and health disparities, substance abuse, and environmental health and justice.
- **Meet the Need for Well-trained Public Health Professionals:** The project provides needed space to meet projected enrollment growth for the programs in the HHSC from 827 undergraduate and 182 graduate students in fall 2023 to 1,191 undergraduate and 252 graduate students in fall 2033. The increased number of well-trained public health graduates will help meet the strong demand for public health professionals, help attract and retain health related industries in Maryland and contribute to the economic growth of the State.
- **Increase Research Grants:** The HHSC will add needed modern research space to the campus inventory, enhancing the ability of faculty to secure research grants. The SPHL projects that with this facility, the total research expenditures of the programs will increase from \$11,850,000 in FY 2023 to \$15,150,000 in FY 2033.

UMD awarded the design/build contract for the project in October 2024 and started construction of early site packages in summer 2025. Interior construction is ongoing. The \$44.315 M requested in FY 2027 is needed to continue construction. The 2027 Governor's CIP reduced the project budget by \$7.486M which presents a serious challenge given design and construction are underway. The university will work to assess the impacts of this reduction and work to reduce project cost as the project progresses and additional costs are known.

Health and Human Sciences Complex



Architect's rendering of the building looking north



Architect's rendering of the building looking east

STATE-SUPPORTED SPACE DEFICIENCY FACTS

Below are the current and projected space deficits on campus for state-supported facilities based on Fall 2024 data.

<u>MAJOR ROOM USES</u>	<u>Current FALL 2024 Deficit (NASF)</u>	<u>Projected FALL 2034 Deficit (NASF)</u>
Classrooms	(623)	14,069
Class Laboratories	16,144	37,284
Research Laboratories	(357,258)	(515,590)
Office	(159,347) (1)	(207,458) (1)
<i>Subtotal</i>	(501,084)	(671,695)
Study Spaces	(330,410)	(171,827)
Other Room Uses (2)	(116,684) (1)	(126,747) (1)
TOTAL	(948,178)	(970,270)

(1) Applied 61% to the total deficit which reflects the proportion of state-supported space on the main campus.

(2) Special Use, General Use and Support Facilities - e.g., lounge, storage

NOTES:

Projections are predicated upon full funding of the USM Strategic Plan. In addition, the projections include the projects in the last UMD ten-year base CIP.

The total current inventory of state-supported space is 5,809,801 NASF (excludes leased space). This includes 4,933,929 NASF on the main campus and 875,872 NASF off campus.



University of Maryland College Park
Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
House Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Malcolm Ruff
March 16, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker
March 17, 2026

We appreciate the thoughtful capital budget analysis. Following are our responses to the issue raised in the analysis.

Health and Human Sciences Complex

The President should comment on the \$7.5 million discrepancy between UMCP's and the Department of Budget and Management's estimated total cost of the project and how UMCP will cover the shortfall.

The discrepancy of \$7.5M is reflective of the revised CEW produced by DBM last fall, which includes escalation rate changes, and UMD's previous CBIS submission last June. This presents a challenge for the project given that design and early construction is underway. However, the UMD will work to assess the impacts of this reduction on future funding years through the project's design build team and work to reduce project cost as the project progresses and additional costs are known.