

February 24, 2020

Dear Delegate Reznik:

I just want to take a moment of your time to share with you the Rockville Chamber's concerns regarding the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2020 that directly impacts community college funding. The BRFA reduces the funding for community colleges by 50 percent—that's a loss of \$3 million dollars to Montgomery College, which will directly impact current students' access to education in Rockville and the State.

We ask you to reject the BRFA language for community colleges, and instead support the budget which fully funds community colleges.

The top priority for the members of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce is talent attraction and retention. We know MC contributes to the pool of skilled labor necessary to help our members thrive in Rockville. For example, in addition to MC's 54,000 students served annually, we just learned that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) approved MC's new degree—the Associates of Applied Sciences (AAS) degree in cloud computing and networking technology—which aligns with the Amazon Web Services (AWS) platform. This new degree will increase MC's ability to contribute to the tech talent pool our members need and help the State compete for talent in the region. This new degree demonstrates the College's continued efforts to be nimble and respond to an ever changing economic landscape. Plus, we know first-hand the impact of MC alumni—alumni like Jim Muir, vice president of Hughes Network Systems and an industry leader who helps to lead the College's effort to spur job growth at their science and tech park, PIC MC, at the Germantown Campus. MC is a trusted partner with the Chamber and worthy of your continued support.

Again, please support community colleges and support Rockville's community college, MC. Reject the BRFA language and fully fund community colleges.

Thank you.

Marji Graf, President & CEO  
Rockville Chamber of Commerce