



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F
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Testimony in FAVOR of SB 433
Community Colleges – State Funding - Revision
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 2, 2021
1:30 PM

Presented to: Guy Guzzone, Chairman
By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council strongly urges a **Favorable Report to SB433.**

With over two million members, SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in the sectors health care, public services, including in public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. In the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area, we represent over 50,000 workers.

We have long supported the mission of community colleges. Our members are largely working class and their opportunity for higher education lays mostly with access to community colleges. Over the years, what was once affordable for almost everyone, is now slipping through the hands of our members and their families. This is happening at the same time as wages, especially for lower skilled workers has either been stagnant or decreased.

The state needs to up its game. Local governments have met their obligation – and in some case, increased their funding beyond Cade. Students have been picking up the slack left by state government. That is unfair and undermines the very mission of community colleges – to make higher education available for all.

As both consumers and providers of higher education, SEIU members have a unique perspective on this issue. Increase funding. We will all benefit in the future.

We wish to thank Senator King for sponsoring this important legislation.

. **We ask a Favorable Report on SB 433.** Thank you.