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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 918 – Higher Education - Community Colleges Facilities Renewal Grant
Program – Alterations**

March 15, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

In 2018 the legislature established the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant (CCFRG) program within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to provide grants for improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects at community colleges, including Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). Grants provided by the program are in addition to and do not supplant funds provided by the Community College Construction Grant program. The Governor must appropriate 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant program to the CCFRG program. Under CCFRG, MHEC may make up to eight grants in each fiscal year and no community college can receive more than \$500,000 in a fiscal year, and no community college can receive a grant in consecutive years.

Senate Bill 918 will increase the appropriation from 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant to 10%. The bill will further allow MHEC to make up to sixteen grants in each fiscal year.

We continue to ask our Community Colleges to try to hold the line on tuitions, but without the resources to fund necessary repairs and improvements, increased tuition may be their only recourse. Delays in these repairs will ultimately result in higher repair costs and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 918 so our Community Colleges can continue to provide a high-quality higher education in an environment that support students' safety and learning.