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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0904- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Community Colleges - Capital Projects - State Share Adjustment

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0904, Community Colleges - Capital Projects - State Share Adjustment

As a student with three recent degrees at Frederick Community College I have personally seen the quality of instruction that our community colleges bring as part of the higher education system in Maryland. This bill deals with how we fund the capital projects of our community colleges so they can continue in their vital mission in our communities.

Many of us from all of the community colleges have come to Annapolis and spoken with our legislators about funding our institutions. As reported in the Inside Higher Ed journal article *Maryland Community Colleges Face \$22M Budget Cut* “Students, faculty and administrators now fear a cut in state funding will force the colleges to raise tuition, terminate major scholarships and freeze hiring.”¹

Despite the budget crisis overall in Maryland this bill is more than just an expenditure, it is an INVESTMENT in the future of Maryland. Community colleges produce leaders, entrepreneurs, the workers our economy must have to continue progress within our state. I urge that this bill be looked at for how to best ensure we make those forward-looking decisions.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0904.

¹¹ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/state-policy/2024/02/08/maryland-community-colleges-face-22m-budget-cut>