



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 515: Community Colleges - Workforce Readiness Grant Program - Established

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

February 20, 2019

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 515 establishes the Workforce Readiness Grant Program and authorizes each community college to accept certain donations that further the purpose of this Program. It also requires the Governor to appropriate the lesser of \$250,000 for each campus of each community college or the amount of certain donations in certain fiscal years.

Finding the right people with the right skills is a challenge shared by most of our Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) members. Therefore, programs that support talent attraction and retention is a top priority for MCCC. Community colleges are an integral part of the economic ecosystem, helping to train and retrain our highly desirable talent pool of qualified workers. Resources are essential for community colleges to provide the appropriate instruction and maintain adequate facilities. Montgomery College is a key partner in training local residents for the jobs that are available in a variety of careers and industries.

This legislation is a high priority for community colleges, specifically Montgomery College as it helps our community colleges win grants or philanthropic dollars for key technology by leveraging matching investments by the state. For example, Montgomery College's allied health programs fuel local hospitals with ready workers use an array of technology to prepare students to become radiology and sonography technicians. Keeping up with the pace of technology used in healthcare centers enable the graduates to be prepared and ready to make a difference on day one.

For these reasons, **we respectfully request Senate Bill 515 be given a favorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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