



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

**SENATE BILL 869: Higher Education - Community Colleges - Workforce
Development Sequence Grants and Scholarships**

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARCH 1, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports Senate Bill 869** which establishes Workforce Development Sequence grants and scholarships; requires the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission to disburse grants to community colleges in the State in order for specified community colleges to award scholarships to students who are enrolled in a Workforce Development Sequence and demonstrate financial need; and requires the Governor annually to include \$2,000,000 in the State budget for the Workforce Development Sequence grants.

Finding the right people with the right skills is a challenge shared by most of our MCCC members. Therefore, programs that support talent attraction and retention is a top priority for MCCC. Montgomery College is a key partner in training local residents for the jobs that are available in a variety of careers and industries. Providing a structure for a scholarship program and dedicating funding to this program will encourage more people to pursue training and education that will put them on a path of greater opportunity while meeting the needs of our business community.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 869.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our 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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