

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser Ways and Means Committee Room 131, House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1294** – Income Tax Credit – Payment of Tuition at a Community College – **Support** with Amendment

Dear Delegate Kaiser:

House Bill 1294 seeks to provide Maryland Tax Credits to individuals for tuition paid at a Maryland Community College.

Community colleges support the economic vitality of our communities by providing affordable higher education and career training programs that help to fill the middle skills job gap. A tax credit of this nature encourages an individual's investment in higher education, career and skills development and ultimately helps Maryland businesses to employ a well-prepared workforce.

We suggest that the bill is amended to clarify the definition of tuition as that which is for academic credit as well as for non-credit career and job skill enhancement training.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of more than 600 members, supports this bill and therefore requests that you give it a favorable report amendment proposed above.

Sincerely,

Mike McMullin

President

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker

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Senator Justin Ready