

Date

The Honorable _____ (full name)

Office Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

As a University System of Maryland faculty member and a constituent of yours, I urge you to support higher education and the University System of Maryland (USM) institutions. The ability of our state and nation to compete in the global economy is directly tied to the education level of our citizens. With innovative academic models, expansive partnerships, and ongoing cost containment, USM works to increase Maryland's college completion rate by providing access to many affordable undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree and certificate programs. Investing in USM institutions will:

- Ensure continued economic development and improvement in the quality of life for Maryland citizens.
- Advance commercialization and technology transfer.
- Increase the state's competitiveness by addressing critical workforce shortage areas especially in the disciplines of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).
- Advance cutting-edge research and discovery in health care, energy, cybersecurity, and other areas.
- Generate additional research dollars-USM institutions have attracted over \$1.1 billion in external grants and contracts each of the last two years, and
- Support USM students, staff, and faculty who have contributed more than a million hours of service to the community through an assortment of cultural programs, legal and medical clinics, partnerships with public schools and the business community, and other initiatives.

The money invested in USM institutions is redistributed to communities across the state, including our district, to create jobs and stimulate the local economy. Our students are learning the technical and intellectual skills required for the high-paying jobs of the future. An investment in higher education is an investment in the health and economic future of Maryland and our nation. Maryland has made higher education a priority, and I am counting on your leadership to make sure that it remains accessible and affordable by continuing to invest in USM institutions. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further or have any questions related to higher education.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number