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Maryland Higher Education Commission
Community College Facilities Grant Program (Statewide)

**Testimony of Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr., Secretary of Higher Education, to the
Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee for Capital Budget and the
House Appropriations Subcommittee for Capital Budget**

March 1 & 7, 2017

Issues

- 1. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that MHEC and Garrett College comment on why this project has been reprogrammed to the miscellaneous capital program, despite prior inclusion in CCFGP and the strong academic purpose for the project.**

Statement of Department of Budget and Management - Garrett College Community Education and Performing Arts Center

The Department of Budget and Management has recommended reprogramming this project into the Miscellaneous Grants Program beginning in FY 2020. This will enable the facility to be completed without the percentage of local share that would be required under the Community College Construction Program. Garrett County is the only county in the State, according to the College, that lacks a performing arts center. Upon completion, the new building will serve the entire county and visitors to the county's resorts. The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival, for example, will be hosted at this new facility. Other performances beyond those produced by the College and its students will use the facility as well. The primary tenant of the building will be performing arts programs, but the main space will be given to the theater. Finally, the theater is also anticipated to host large events such as high school graduations, trainings for larger companies, and other community-oriented events. Many local areas have received miscellaneous project funding for performing arts centers that serve their communities. Because Garrett County lacks these facilities currently, DBM believes the broader benefits to the community warrant reprogramming it into the Miscellaneous Grants Program.

GO Bond Recommended Actions

- 1. Approve the fiscal 2019 allowance for the Community College Facilities Grant Program.**

MHEC concurs with the recommended action

2. Approve the pre-authorization for fiscal 2020.

MHEC concurs with the recommended action

3. Approve the pre-authorization for fiscal 2021.

MHEC concurs with the recommended action