

**Testimony of Nikki Faroughi**  
**Representative of Montgomery College Students**  
**Germantown Campus**  
**County Council**  
**April 6, 2021**

Good evening members of the Montgomery County Council. It is an honor to speak to you tonight. My name is Nikki Faroughi and I am here tonight to ask you to support Montgomery College's operating budget.

I am currently a junior at Thomas S. Wootton High school. You might be wondering why a junior from a high school is speaking on the behalf of the College. Well, I am an Early College student. I am currently studying biological sciences at the MC Germantown Campus, virtually of course. I will receive my associate's degree and my high school diploma in the spring of 2022. After graduation, I plan to transfer to a four-year college then attend medical school.

The affordable education I can get at MC makes my dream to become a doctor possible. As you can imagine, I have an expensive educational pathway ahead. Getting my start at MC will relieve some of my future financial stress. I am not alone in needing an affordable college option. As a Germantown Campus student senator, I understand that my fellow students need affordable tuition. Even before the pandemic, students struggled to have a stable living while trying to earn a college degree. Since the pandemic hit, it has been difficult for students who have lost jobs, lost family, and have no source of income. I even know an MC student who lives in their car. Lives. In. A car. Imagine if MC's tuition increased—

what would these people do? Already struggling, many students would not be able to pursue a degree.

I am here tonight advocating for you to support MC's operating budget so the College can continue to provide affordable tuition for all students. My college has paved paths to a brighter future for students because of the wonderful education, support from professors and staff, the wide variety of opportunities, and its affordable tuition.

I cannot thank the Council enough for supporting MC and keeping the college affordable. Please continue by supporting Montgomery College's operating budget request.

Thank you.