



**Testimony of Farin Alimo,
Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Student
Montgomery County Council
FY23 Capital Budget Hearing
February 8, 2022**

Good afternoon, Council President Albornoz and members of the Montgomery County Council. My name is Farin Alimo. I am a Burtonsville resident and the vice president of the Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Senate. I am studying communications, international relations, and linguistics. I hope to transfer next year to earn a bachelor's degree. I am honored to speak to you and to represent the incredible students at my college.

I am here today to thank you for your support of MC, and ask you to support the College's FY23 capital budget. Please provide funds to renovate Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring library. Students need access to study spaces, technology, and books.

The library is the hub of the campus—it represents the importance of knowledge. But our campus library, which is now 61 years old, needs to be updated to meet the needs of today's college students. Students, like me, need access to quiet spaces between classes, so that we can meet in groups to complete projects and study together. Many students need to access textbooks in the library, which are often too expensive for students to afford. In addition, students need a library designed with modern technology in mind. Many MC



students use the library's computers daily since they do not have their own and need a place that inspires them that is practical and functional.

I know the power a library can have. As an intern at the Library of Congress, that space has opened the whole world to me! A modern renovated building will help students concentrate so they can get their degree and improve their future. It is an important investment for students and Maryland's future.

I grew up in Montgomery County and know how valued libraries are here—that's one of the reasons I want to continue living in this county. Just recently, I've helped new Afghani refugees in Montgomery County get acclimated to our campus, and utilize the library to work on their English skills.

Thank you for your past support of our college. Students are excited to see the Leggett Math and Science Building going up! Please support us with modern library spaces, too. I ask that you fully fund the MC FY23 capital budget and fund the TP/SS library renovation so students can access study spaces, technology, and books they need to succeed.

Thank you!