



Testimony of Joyce Kabeya
Representative of Montgomery College Students
Germantown Campus
Montgomery County Council
April 20, 2022

Good evening, members of the Montgomery County Council. It is an honor to speak to you tonight. My name is Joyce Kabeya and I am a student senator at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. I am here to ask that you support Montgomery College's operating budget request, which will keep tuition affordable for all students.

I am an Early College student in the process of completing an associate's degree in computer science. In 2023, I will graduate from MC and Wootton High School with a college degree and a high school diploma at the same time. I plan to transfer to get a bachelor's degree, then a master's degree in computer science. I hope to work as a software engineer at a major tech company, like Google. With the jump start that MC has given me, I believe all of this can—and will—happen.

I am the child of two immigrants that moved to the United States from the Democratic Republic of Congo with nothing. My parents have gained more financial stability but there are still struggles. Affordable tuition makes it possible for my older sister to attend MC at the same time that I am pursuing my MC degree. I am incredibly grateful. In addition to my family's need for affordable tuition, I know that many, many students need this, too. I am here to speak on behalf of my fellow Germantown Campus students—please help keep tuition affordable so students can attend MC no matter their financial situations.

My time at the College excites me about the future. My peers and I are thankful because MC cares about helping us succeed. I know many students on my campus rely on MC as the place to get their college education. Students, like my sister and I, need a college close to home that they can afford. Thank you for supporting MC so it could keep tuition flat throughout this pandemic. With your support this year, the College can continue to keep tuition flat so students will be able to earn a college degree that leads them to prosper in the future.

We are grateful for your support of the Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, as well as the library renovation on the TP/SS Campus.

Thank you for all that you have done for Montgomery College to help keep tuition affordable, which has allowed my sister and me, and many others, to pursue our passions and

move toward success. Please support Montgomery College's operating budget so MC remains affordable. Thank you.