

Testimony of Kim McBride
Vice President, Community Health, Holy Cross Health
Montgomery County Council – April 8, 2025

Good afternoon, Council President Stewart and members of the Council. My name is Kim McBride, and I serve as Vice President of Community Health at Holy Cross Health. I'm here today to express our strong support for Montgomery College and to respectfully urge you to fully fund their FY26 operating budget request.

At Holy Cross Health, we see firsthand the powerful role Montgomery College plays in shaping the future of our healthcare workforce. We are proud to partner with the College in a variety of ways—but perhaps most visibly through our shared Germantown campus, where Holy Cross Germantown Hospital stands as the first hospital in the nation built on a community college campus. That partnership reflects our shared mission: to create opportunities, expand access, and strengthen community well-being.

Montgomery College is a vital part of our workforce pipeline. We rely on the College to help prepare the nurses, radiologic technicians, phlebotomists, pharmacy techs, and medical assistants who care for our community every day. These graduates are well-trained, committed, and ready to meet the complex needs of a diverse population. We don't just partner with the College—we hire their graduates regularly.

One of the most impactful areas of collaboration is our Career Pathways Program, which helps our entry-level employees gain certifications in high-demand fields like CNA, CMA, pharmacy technician, certified health access associate, and phlebotomy. Montgomery College provides the instruction, and Holy Cross removes financial barriers by covering tuition and offering wraparound support. We've seen firsthand how this program helps colleagues move from hourly, frontline roles into skilled positions with better wages and growth potential. It's a powerful tool for promoting income equality and career advancement—and it's only possible because of strong partners like Montgomery College.

What makes the College exceptional is that they don't just focus on graduation—they focus on the whole student. They work hard to address the social needs that can derail educational progress—connecting students to food, housing assistance, mental health support, and more. That commitment ensures that students don't just start strong—they finish strong.

At a time when our healthcare system is grappling with critical workforce shortages, Montgomery College is a key solution. They help us grow talent locally and keep that talent right here in Montgomery County.

For all these reasons, I urge you to fully fund Montgomery College's FY26 operating budget. Your support ensures we can continue this essential partnership—and continue building a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued investment in our community.