

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

May 25, 1989

The Honorable R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1362.

This bill would establish a special grant program for community colleges offering licensure programs for health occupations found by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be in short supply. Under the bill, a community college would receive a grant of \$1,500 for each graduate from these programs in excess of the number of graduates from the programs during the 1987-1988 academic year. Initially, nursing would be the only health occupation in short supply for purposes of the bill.

This Session the General Assembly passed, and I have signed, legislation enhancing the financial resources of community colleges. With enactment of the community college funding bill (H.B. 1449), general funding for community colleges increased by almost \$10 million, to a level of \$92 million in fiscal year 1990. The State is paying an additional \$26 million for professors' pension and Social Security payments. The total State support for community colleges in fiscal year 1990, therefore, is over \$118 million.

I also signed four bills aimed at improving nursing education in the State. These bills deal with transition courses to facilitate the reentry of nurses (S.B. 703), authorizing State scholarships for part-time nursing students (S.B. 706), determining the feasibility of a cooperative degree program at the University of Maryland (S.B. 705), and establishing a task force to study certain aspects of nursing education programs throughout the State (S.B. 704).

While I am very supportive of efforts to increase the number of individuals entering health occupations, I am not convinced that House Bill 1362 would actually create the incentives envisioned by the sponsors. The payment of the grant to a community college after graduation of a student does not seem likely to encourage students to initially decide to enter a health occupation education program.

Given these new laws for improving nursing education and the significantly increased level of funding for community colleges, I do not believe that an additional, small categorical grant