



The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Beyer
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Kaine and Representative Beyer:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Chamber in support of Marymount University's request for FY23 community project funding for its Caregiver to Bread Winner project. This project will help women gain new skills to find higher paying, more flexible jobs in Virginia's technology industry, while helping Virginia employers overcome the labor shortages that they face. We hope you will consider this project for community project funding in FY23.

As the President and CEO of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for the last 8 years, I have gotten to know Marymount University both as an integral player in the community and as an active partner in developing a prepared and relevant workforce. President Becerra and I have been particularly focused on the training of women for the workforce and on the encouragement of women in all roles, and we have a shared passion for developing women to be ready to take on leadership roles.

The pandemic disproportionately impacted women in the workforce, especially minority women and caregivers, and this project will help get these women back in the workforce and support them along the way in their new roles. Additionally, there is a significant need for entry-level technical professionals in the Northern Virginia region. The Caregiving to Bread Winner project will make a significant impact on our workforce and economy, while enabling and empowering women in Northern Virginia to expand their skills and move into higher paying jobs in the technology industry.

This project will improve the lives of so many in our community and help drive economic growth. We fully support this project and the request for funding, and we hope you will too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO