



# ROBERT G. CASSILLY

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## Harford County Executive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Harford County Executive Cassilly Responds to County Council's Veto Override of Mandated Spending Bill 23-034**

**BEL AIR, Md., (Feb. 7, 2024)** - County Executive Bob Cassilly issued the following statement today following the Harford County Council's decision to override his veto of Bill 23-034.

"Last night's decision by the County Council to override my veto is deeply concerning. [Bill 23-034](#) attempts to introduce a spending mandate for county government in violation of the Harford County Charter. It would force me to allocate funds to a non-government entity outside of my administration's oversight, undermining my efforts to control government spending and provide effective oversight of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. It is disappointing that some council members did not uphold my veto and help protect fiscal responsibility in Harford County.

In fact, Governor Hogan during his tenure rightly criticized the widespread use of spending mandates by the General Assembly, which allow overspending and create a structural deficit at the state level. Harford cannot afford to emulate the state's flawed spending policies.

The Harford County Charter wisely entrusts all budgetary responsibilities to the Executive Branch, enabling balanced spending priorities aligned with taxpayers' interests. The County Council's overreach into funding decisions sets a dangerous precedent toward runaway spending that becomes a burden to taxpayers and weakens the integrity of our county's financial management."

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