

Senate Bill 439
Public Institutions of Higher Education - Student Athletes
(Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 25, 2021

Letter of Information

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

St. Mary's College has concerns with Senate Bill 439, the Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act. The Bill creates challenges for St. Mary's College as a school that participates in NCAA Division III athletics.

The proposed Bill states that every student-athlete is required to receive an athletic or academic scholarship. St. Mary's College is not permitted to award athletic scholarships due to NCAA Division III guidelines. Under this Bill, St. Mary's College would be required to award merit scholarships to all athletes, regardless of academic merit, which is inequitable. Additionally, it conflicts with NCAA Division III guidelines as well.

Senate Bill 439 also requires that all public institutions pay the healthcare costs for all of their student athletes. As a small Division III school, St. Mary's College does not generate large amounts of revenue from athletic programs. In fact, our athletic program is funded primarily through student revenue, not through the athletic program itself. Providing healthcare to all of our student athletes would require St. Mary's to depend on student revenue to handle the cost, and could result in the College passing those increased costs on to students through higher fees.

We request that amendments be introduced to the Bill that provides exemption from these provisions for St. Mary's College.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



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President