



Office of the
General Counsel
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401
Via: Email

Re: Senate Bill 449

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

Towson University (the "University") writes in support of Senate Bill 449 (Public Information Act-Revisions-Equitable Access to Records Act) with amendments.

Towson University is the largest public institution of higher education in the Baltimore area and the second largest institution in the University System of Maryland. The Towson University Office of General Counsel houses vast amounts of private and confidential state personnel, student, and research-related records (in both electronic and hard-copy form) by numerous different custodians that must be maintained in compliance with various state and federal privacy laws, including, but not limited to, the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Higher Education Act (HEA). The University maintains such records for tens of thousands of current and former students, and thousands of current and former employees. The University also maintains numerous other records subject to legal privileges and specific enumerated exemptions under the MPIA.

We participated with USM and other campus representatives in a series of discussions with the House bill sponsor to address our concerns and we respectfully request the Senate Bill Sponsor and the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Matters Committee adopt the amendments to Senate Bill 449.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Sara Slaff
Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel

CC: Members, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Cmte