



College of Southern Maryland
F O U N D A T I O N

Senate Bill 0136
College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc.
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the college. We are a separate and distinct 501(c)3 organization with an all-volunteer board of members from across all three counties representing every facet of business and industry. We work to connect donors and regional partners in support of our students, faculty, programs, and community by cultivating relationships and stewarding assets consistent with our donors' intent. In the past 10 years alone, we have raised more than \$9.2 million in scholarship and program funds and awarded more than \$6.8 million in support of credit and workforce development scholarships and programs including the arts, athletics, nursing, STEM, technology, and outreach. We are transforming the lives of our students and enriching our community.

Our community is Southern Maryland - Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. We don't recognize borders or boundaries, in fact, we work to tear them down. We connect donors in Calvert County with students in Charles County, partners in St. Mary's County support programs in Calvert County. As a regional board, we support the *region*. Separating the college by county would separate donors from recipients, thus stripping students of their scholarships and programs of their sponsorships. In addition, it would prevent students in St. Mary's and Calvert from receiving Pell grants and other federal financial aid and it would destroy our regional programs like nursing, robotics, and athletics.

Because of the detrimental effect it would have on our students and programs, the College of Southern Maryland Foundation is vehemently opposed to Senate Bill 136. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would derail the education of students whose lives and educations have already been shaken by the continuing tumult of the COVID crisis. The repercussions of the pandemic have reverberated deeply at community colleges, which serve primarily part-time students who juggle families and jobs, and even in normal times struggle with basic needs like food, housing, childcare, and transportation. Demolishing their college could prevent an entire generation of students from receiving an education. If a generation of students disappears because of the whims of one misguided senator, where will that leave the state?

Sincerely,

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

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