

**Senate Bill 136**  
**Theodore L. Harwood II**  
**Unfavorable Report**  
**February 9, 2022**

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized ([www.intelligent.com](http://www.intelligent.com)) regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region. Of the 2900 universities and colleges (both 2 year and 4 year) rated by intelligent.com, CSM ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Business Administration associate degrees, 1<sup>st</sup> in Administration and Management associate degrees, 1<sup>st</sup> in Workforce Development, 11<sup>th</sup> in IT and Systems Programs associate degrees, and 22<sup>nd</sup> in accounting (best in the southeast) associate degrees. Additionally, our robotics team, competing in the 2019 VEX U robotics tournament placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the country and 11<sup>th</sup> in the world. This last year they placed 42<sup>nd</sup> worldwide (tied with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University).

CSM is essentially a force multiplier for all students and is renowned for supplying CSM graduates to southern Maryland tri-county businesses and provides workforce development for “home grown” professionals and local businesses. Over 90% of CSM graduates remain in and/or return to southern Maryland.

As a former CSM Chairman of the Board of Trustees (2017-2020), a Trustee Emeriti, and current Director in the CSM Foundation Board, I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students, taxpayers, and businesses in Southern Maryland. Instead, it will significantly limit the ability of the students to get a quality education, as dismantling CSM will significantly decrease access for students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, reduce availability of professional workforce, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

Additionally, accreditation is required by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MHEC). Without this accreditation we cannot receive federal funds, including federal financial aid and transfer of credit. This accreditation is owned exclusively by CSM. A separate college in Charles County would be required to receive authorization to operate through MHEC and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This is a multi-year process. Students in a separate Charles County college would not be eligible for federal financial aid until it is accredited, nor could the separate college receive the more than \$1M in National Science Foundation funds for STEM scholarships that are currently available through CSM.

Since our inception on July 1, 2000, CSM has become a nationally known and recognized progressive, innovative, and technologically-advanced institution. As a regionally-accredited institution that prides itself on delivering high quality educational services, it also serves as a catalyst for business, industry, and government to identify the resources needed to grow and maintain a healthy economy and community.

It is not broke, far from it, don't try to fix it by tearing it apart.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.