

**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by**  
**Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**  
**March 8, 2023**

**HB1114 – Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property – Application**

**POSITION: Unfavorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, thanks the House Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to share our concerns on this legislation.

While we appreciate the intent of the legislation in primary and secondary school settings, and even for minors generally whom we have in dual enrollment circumstances, we have concerns around the wholesale inclusion of higher education and the limitations this legislation would place on the college’s ability to maintain a safe campus for all students.

At Maryland’s community colleges we have a large diversity of ages and backgrounds. More than 40% of our students are over the age of 21. Protection of all of our students, including minors and individuals with disabilities, is of utmost importance for each of our colleges. The allowances for prosecution in the criminal code as outlined by the Office of the Public Defender are specific to juveniles and we believe that this bill would best serve its intention by removing higher education.

For the reasons outlined above, MACC requests an unfavorable report on SB421.