



Maryland General Assembly Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow PAPSAs's Maryland Chapter to comment on [Senate Bill 446](#). PAPSAs (www.papsa.org) represents over 100 technical colleges and career schools in several states and we advocate for quality career and technical education. Although originated in Pennsylvania, we are currently working with several Maryland-based institutions of higher education and are in the process of establishing a Maryland Chapter of the association. It is also relevant to state for the purposes of the legislation being considered today that our member schools include both "for-profit" and "non-profit" career and technical institutions.

[Senate Bill 446](#) would help provide the state with additional powers and enforcement mechanisms to curtail disorderly school closures. This is a very important topic and we support this legislation.

Closures of schools happen occasionally for various reasons. Most schools close the proper way, which includes taking steps like providing significant notice to students and other stakeholders, full notice and transparency with federal and state regulators and accreditors, properly teaching-out programs for every student, providing transfer options to students, providing full account and security of student records, and other actions to make sure the school is closed the right way.

However, sometimes a school unfortunately does not take these necessary measures. These situations – when they occur – are very problematic for students, employees, communities, and they hurt the positive reputation of other high-quality institutions in the sector. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and other state entities need stronger tools to help prevent disorderly closures from occurring.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and our support of the legislation.

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