



## Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

### TESTIMONY

Submitted by  
Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of  
Community Colleges

February 12, 2020

**BILL: SB 446 – Institutions of Postsecondary – Disorderly School  
Closures**

**POSITION: Favorable with Amendments**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges ("MACC"), representing all of Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports (with amendments) SB 446, which will require all postsecondary institutions in Maryland to have a process for shutting down an institution or closing an academic program so as to prevent a disorderly school and/or program closure.

Currently, Maryland's community colleges already have a process in place for both orderly school closure and for closing one or more academic programs as it is required by our regional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (Middle States). While MACC believes the best solution would be to require all Maryland postsecondary institutions to be regionally accredited by Middle States, we understand the need for all institutions to at a minimum be required to follow an orderly school closure process.

However, for closing an academic program, Maryland's community colleges believe that we are already meeting the intent of this bill and will provide the sponsor amendments that mirror our current process. The concern is that there is no timeframe established in the legislation and that a student who has not been enrolled for several years may decide to return to finish his degree, only to discover the program has been phased out.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and our amendments and thank you for all your support and efforts to improve Maryland's community colleges for the benefit of the students we serve.