



**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 11, 2020
Senate Bill 606 – Criminal Law-Hate Crimes – Basis
(2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins, III’s Law)**

Support

The University of Maryland writes to express its support for *SB 606 – Criminal Law-Hate Crimes – Basis (2nd Lieutenant Richard Collins, III’s Law)*. Campuses across the country are experiencing record numbers of hate incidents targeted at members of our communities. By allowing prosecutors to pursue charges when a crime is motivated in part based on another person's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin, SB 606 would give them a much-needed tool to more effectively combat these incidents.

The University of Maryland is one of the nation's most diverse flagship campuses. We deeply value our diversity, and we recognize the importance both educationally and culturally of a diverse student body. Please help us make all members of our campus community feel safe and supported by enacting SB 606. We owe our students nothing less. We urge your favorable report.