

MaryPIRG Students strongly urges representatives in the Maryland General Assembly to vote YES on HB47, which prevents public institutions of higher education from entering or renewing a contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE. The presence of an ICE contract with any university poses a reason for significant concern for International and Undocumented students. Prohibiting the existence of any further contracts at a Maryland university would alleviate the concerns of many students and provide them a more welcoming environment to study and reside within.

International and undocumented students should be valued and respected in our community. Both historically and in future prospect, the curiosity, passion, inspiration, and boldness within our learning communities is strengthened by the presence of international and undocumented students. The inclusion of various communities has always greatly contributed to a learning culture of far reaching and diverse ideas and innovation while ensuring that the scope of our learning environment is not only kept within our own perspective, but instead, indicative of the global nature of research and innovation. However, the contracts' effect on international and undocumented students limits and compromises the quality of their learning environments due to the consequential fear and uncertainty they will or may feel.

Through HB47, universities will not be allowed to sustain a relationship with an organization that is infamous for discriminatory and terrorizing practices towards marginalized communities. The passing of this bill will allow for the promotion of a less discriminatory and safer environment for international and undocumented students. For these reasons, MaryPIRG Students urges you to vote yes on prohibiting the future creation or renewal of contracts with ICE.

Sincerely,

*Greeshma Anand, Board Chair of MaryPIRG Students*

*Bailey Arenberg, Vice President of MaryPIRG Students*

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