

Senate Bill 254
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Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 254—College of Southern Maryland—Vice President of Equity and Inclusions—Funding and Responsibilities for two reasons: it is an unfunded and unjustified mandate and it completely disregards the current equity and inclusion work at the college.

CSM has always been at the point of the spear in dealing with Diversity issues. When Hunters Brooke Development was torched by racial arsonist in December 2004, over two dozen houses under construction were destroyed. It was CSM working with Senator Middleton and the Charles County elected officials to begin a dialogue of hope and confront the community's fears about race. To this day it is considered to be the worst arson event in Maryland history.

That spirit continues today. The College of Southern (CSM) is nationally recognized by the Aspen Institute for achieving outcomes, including equity outcomes, and by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* for high numbers of minority graduates, especially in STEM fields. The college has been part of the Achieving the Dream network since 2019, a national organization of roughly 300 community colleges, that has as its primary focus the elimination of equity gaps among community college students.

I ask the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give SB 254 an unfavorable report.