

Maryland General Assembly
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD

Subject: Senate Bill 121
Honorable Senate,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 121 which would require the College of Southern Maryland to reopen the indoor pool at the La Plata campus.

Swimming is a uniquely inclusive form of exercise that accommodates individuals with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. For many in our community, swimming may be the only viable form of exercise, making the availability of a suitable facility critical.

The CSM La Plata pool provided that vital resource for our residents for many years. Without it, we only have the three high school indoor pools. Those pools are closed during school hours and are extremely busy in the evenings. There are no more Charles County supported daytime hydrotherapy classes or lap swimming options. Hydrotherapy is a crucial form of rehabilitation for many individuals with disabilities or chronic conditions. The buoyancy of water alleviates stress on joints, making it an essential component of their treatment and recovery. A dedicated pool, open during the day throughout the year, provides a lifeline to those in our community who require these therapeutic services.

The La Plata pool is designed for lap swimming and was used by the county's only competitive year-round youth swim team, Southern Maryland Aquatics. Their coach testified at the county hearing for this bill. She said that the team has had to cut their roster because of insufficient swim lane availability. Reopening the La Plata pool would provide a much needed training ground for our team.

At the county level hearing for this bill the County Council Meeting Room and the overflow room were both filled to capacity. Most of the people there were elderly. They came out at night to show their support for this bill. One of the most poignant speakers was a lady on a walker. She said that she has MS and couldn't walk at all before doing hydrotherapy at CSM. She explained that she needs the pool to be able to stay mobile. Sadly, she is just one of the many disabled county citizens who relied on that pool for their physical therapy.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the immeasurable value that reopening the indoor swimming pool at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland would bring to our community. It would not only serve as a beacon of health and wellness but also as a testament to our dedication to the well-being of all our residents. Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing matter. I remain hopeful for a positive resolution that will benefit our community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Katherine Tracey