

**Senate Bill 12
Kee Abell, Trustee, Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report**

January 24, 2024

I am Kee Abell, and as a trustee for the College of Southern Maryland, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

The College of Southern Maryland is a regional college, governed by a Board of Trustees representing each county equally. The Governor appoints our Trustees, with the current membership being three Trustees from each of the three Counties.

As a board, the nine Trustees have always and will continue to work collaboratively with profound respect and recognition of each other’s perspectives. Each of the Trustees performs our duties with due diligence to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland.

One priority of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that the College serves all students equally and equitably. It would be difficult to maintain parity across the three counties with an unbalanced Board.

Students are CSM Hawks, regardless of where they live or attend class. The Board should be balanced, unbiased, and, while representing their respective counties, have a clear understanding of the regional significance of their decisions. I can assure you; we do.

The concern with SB 12 is the perception of disparities that would arise in educational opportunities and services among the three counties. In the long term, having two additional Trustees on the College’s Board and creating an imbalanced Board favoring one county can lead to a significant negative impact.

I ask that the committee give an unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Kee Abell, Trustee
Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland