



**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Senate Bill 955
State Government - Technology Advisory Commission - Established
February 22, 2024
Favorable with Amendment**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 955. The bill establishes the Technology Advisory Commission.

The University System of Maryland (USM) is comprised of twelve distinguished institutions, and three regional centers. We award eight out of every ten bachelor's degrees in the State. Each of USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes three Historically Black Institutions, comprehensive institutions and research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) quickly becoming one of the most transformative technologies in decades, governing the responsible and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence takes a large, but balanced, community of "thought leaders" and practitioners. The USM believes an oversight commission of this import is enhanced exponentially by partnering with the expertise represented in the widest swath of Maryland's system of public higher education. Expanding the commission membership to embrace all of the USM campuses will provide crucial advice as the commission oversees the responsible, efficient and ethical use of a host of new technologies across the state.

The USM has deep expertise and research knowledge on the technical, ethical, legal, operational, and subject matter specific aspects of artificial intelligence. By expanding the Commission membership to include all of USM's institutions we can ensure that the most content knowledgeable people are able to serve on the Commission.

The USM respectfully requests an amendment to Senate Bill 955:

Page 4; after line 3 is amended to read:

“(XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY;

(XII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF SALISBURY UNIVERSITY, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY;

(XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, EASTERN SHORE DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY;

(XIV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, GLOBAL CAMPUS, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY;

(XV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, DESIGNATED BY THE CHANCELLOR;”

Thank you for allowing the USM to share our position on Senate Bill 955 and respectfully request the above amendment.

