

**Senate Bill 12  
Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President, College of Southern Maryland  
Unfavorable Report**

**January 24, 2024**

I am Dr. Yolanda Wilson, and as president of the College of Southern Maryland, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

While recognizing the distinct nature of proposed Senate bills SB 12 and SB 81, it is important to note that these bills are similar in that they both address governance and resource allocation within the context of a regional framework.

Our concern lies in the potential for the proposed changes to create imbalances and disrupt the collaborative spirit of the existing Board and the operational efficiencies and student equity that have been achieved through the current legislation.

As a regional community college, the College of Southern Maryland supports each location equitably, in accordance with their unique needs and student population. As of Fiscal Year 2023, there are 14,329 students from throughout Southern Maryland attending CSM. Of these students, almost 45 percent attend two or more campus locations across the three counties and another 32 percent take online classes. Students do not see county boundaries or limitations in educational services, programs, or offerings because we collaborate from a regional approach.

This collaboration is important to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland. However, SB 12 would create an imbalance, and if one county has more representation than the other two, it can lead to the perception of disparities in educational opportunities and services among the three counties.

An equal number of representatives assumes an equal say in decision-making and resource allocation.

I urge this committee to give an unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President  
College of Southern Maryland