

CORY V. MCCRAY
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

VOTE YES ON SENATE BILL 0983

Bill Title: Higher Education – Academic Program Approval – Objections

Committee: Rules Committee

Hearing Date: March 17th, 2026

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 0983, legislation that improves transparency and oversight in the approval process for new academic programs within Maryland's higher education system.

Currently, institutions or the Maryland Higher Education Commission may only file objections to proposed graduate programs. Senate Bill 0983 removes this limitation and allows objections to be raised for any proposed academic program, ensuring that the same standards of review and accountability apply across all levels of higher education .

By expanding the scope of review, this legislation helps ensure that new programs align with institutional missions, meet regional or statewide workforce needs, and avoid unnecessary or harmful program duplication across institutions. Strengthening this oversight process promotes responsible planning within Maryland's higher education system while protecting both students and state resources.

Senate Bill 0983 supports a more thoughtful and coordinated approach to academic program development across Maryland's colleges and universities. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 0983.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray
45th District