

April 7, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 1674 – *University System of Maryland – Restrictions on Campaign Fund-Raising Activities by Members of the Board of Regents*.

House Bill 1674 precludes a citizen member of the University of Maryland Board of Regents from engaging in fund raising activities for candidates for office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or a member of the Maryland General Assembly. Additionally, a member of the Board of Regents is prohibited from running for public office while serving on the Board.

This denial of a citizen's basic civil rights to fully participate in our representative government is unacceptable. The unpaid volunteers serving on the Board of Regents are motivated by the highest principles of public service to Maryland; insinuating otherwise is insulting to the Regents, the University System, and every other volunteer serving on a Maryland board or commission.

This legislation, targeting an individual member of the Board, or a member's right to run for public office, is not policy, but rather is representative of the partisan politics of the 2006 Legislative Session. Maryland would be better served by a General Assembly focused on the significant issues designed to improve the lives of Maryland citizens.

For the above stated reason, I have vetoed House Bill 1674.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor