



**HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE**

**House Bill 187**

**Public Institutions of Higher Education – Outbreak Response Plan**

**January 28, 2020**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations**

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 187. The bill requires each public institution of higher education to submit an outbreak response plan to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) annually beginning in 2021.

The Board of Regents policy states: ***“USM institutions are required to develop and maintain a campus emergency management program to prepare its campus community in the event of an emergency or incident, mitigate measures to reduce loss of life and property, respond to and recover from emergencies, and maintain campus mission essential functions. Campus emergency management and safety and security programs should focus on the protection of individuals, but must also address facilities, information technology security and infrastructure, business functions, and academic and research continuity.”***

The USM understands the intent of House Bill 187. The challenge, from the perspective of the USM, is conforming the provisions of the bill to campuses without residential housing. Those campuses are University of Maryland Global Campus, University of Baltimore, and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. These campuses also do not have a health center, where it is assumed reporting and tracking of a "life-threatening contagious disease or similar health emergency would take place."

We respectfully request the exemption of non-residential campuses in House Bill 187.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these concerns regarding House Bill 187.