

Senate Bill 647

**Election Law - Institutions of Higher Education - Voter Registration and Voting by
Students**

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 20th, 2020

Support with Amendment

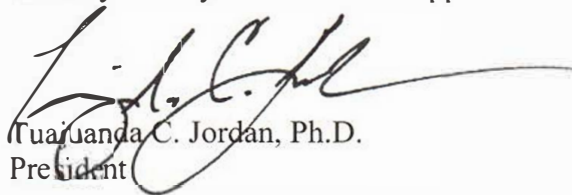
Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 647. This Bill establishes requirements related to voting by students at higher education institutions, as well as student voter registration. St. Mary's College of Maryland has long supported civic engagement, including student's voter registration. St. Mary's College believes Senate Bill 647 will supplement our current efforts.

St. Mary's College seeks an amendment. On Page 7, lines 2-3, delete "(V) A POLICY ALLOWING STUDENTS TO BE EXCUSED FROM CLASS TO VOTE..." Early and absentee voting is widely accessible to students. Excusing students from class will add pressure to the academic calendar, which is already constrained.

For this reason, St. Mary's College supports Senate Bill 647 with this amendment.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, Ph.D.
President



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