

# State of Maryland

## Commission on Civil Rights

*"Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination."*



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February 20, 2020

### **Senate Bill 961 - Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Designated Coordinator - University System of Maryland Position: Support**

Dear Chairperson Kelley, Vice Chairperson Feldman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights ("MCCR"; "The Commission") is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, and physical and mental disability.

Senate Bill 961 repeals a requirement that the University System of Maryland designate their respective unit's Title IX Coordinator as the representative to coordinate with MCCR in regards to sexual harassment prevention training requirements recently enacted by the State. MCCR believes that this requirement should be repealed to provide the University System of Maryland to designate whom they believe to be the most appropriate sexual harassment prevention training coordinator. Indeed, every other unit in State government has the flexibility to identify the personnel that they see best equipped to meet the State's new training requirements.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights urges the committee to vote favorably on SB961. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.