

**Hettleman\_FAV\_SB961**

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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN

SB 961

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training – Designated Coordinator – University System  
of Maryland

February 20, 2020

A few years ago, the General Assembly mandated a sexual harassment training program for state workers. At that time, we designated the Title IX Coordinator at University System of Maryland institutions to be the individual who would work with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to coordinate the training. In conversations with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights this summer, we learned that the Title IX Coordinators were not always the best individuals in the system to have this training liaison responsibility.

This bill is a tweak of current law that will permit the University System of Maryland to have flexibility in selecting the appropriate designee for the training coordinator by removing the mandate that it be the Title IX Coordinator.

USM has an amendment to clarify that a “unit” is an individual institution of the system, which clarifies its application.

I urge you to give SB 961 a favorable report. Thank you.

# **Hughes\_FAV\_SB961**

Uploaded by: Highes, Glendora

Position: FAV

# 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.

**USM\_FAV\_SB961**

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**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 961**  
**Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Designated Coordinator - USM**  
**February 20, 2020**  
**Favorable with Amendment**  
**Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor Government Relations**

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 961. Senate Bill 961 would repeal the requirement the USM designate Title IX coordinators responsible for sexual harassment prevention training.

The USM supports this flexibility as on some campuses in some cases the Title IX Coordinator is not the most appropriate staff to handle this prevention training.

This bill would inadvertently remove the reference to a “unit” within the University System of Maryland, so we request the following amendment.

Under section 2-203.1 d (1) add:

**WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND A UNIT IS ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS.**

With this amendment, the USM respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 961.

**USM\_FWA\_SB 961**

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Position: FWA



**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 961**  
**Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Designated Coordinator - USM**  
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**Favorable with Amendment**  
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