

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
and Members of the
Education, Health and Environment Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SB 283 – Student & Military Voter Empowerment – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee.

I oppose SB 283. Colleges and Universities already have voter registration links on their portals for students to sign up for classes. There are ample opportunities for “Get out the Vote” efforts. SB 283 is unnecessary and it will be expensive to have a Voter Coordinator at every campus. The Fiscal Note on SB 283 indicates that it will cost between \$15,000 and \$100,000 PER INSTITUTION and can cause a budget mandate for local governments.

Only “recognized” groups will be allowed to participate. Colleges and Universities routinely do not recognize conservative or Republican or Pro-Life groups and discriminate against conservative speakers and events. This bill will allow “recognized” campus groups –usually liberal to leftist and Democrats to have an increasingly unfair advantage. They will receive financial and other support for their efforts.

Freedom of speech is being restricted on college campuses in the name removing mis-information or dis-information. To disagree with the far-left view of an issue is demonized as “hate speech”. We are seeing calls to revoke the earned degree of a graduate if they stand up for or challenge the results of any election or voice opinions not politically-correct by leftist views. Universities ought to be bastions of free speech not censorship.

All students’ rights should be respected. All campus groups should be treated equally. SB 283 does nothing to protect the rights of free expression.

Please give SB 283 an Unfavorable Report.

Sincerely,
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