

Senate Bill 946
Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 16, 2021

Letter of Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

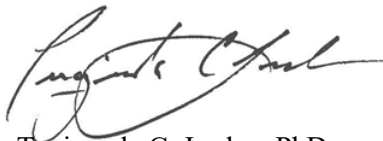
St. Mary's College of Maryland is pleased to provide a letter of support for Senate Bill 946 - Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission. The Commission established by this Bill will lead the planning efforts to observe and celebrate Maryland's 400th anniversary in 2034.

St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded as a living monument to Maryland's first capital, St. Mary's City, by the Maryland State Legislature in 1840. Situated within the historic townlands of Maryland's first capital, the College embraces its responsibility for the stewardship of its historic setting and to provide excellent educational and community programs that relate to the legacy of this very special historical site.

Since 1997, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Historic St. Mary's City have been affiliated through legislation "... to undertake joint programs and otherwise to work collaboratively...for the purpose of furthering the missions of both institutions." Over the past two decades, the College and Historic St. Mary's City have developed a strong and successful relationship, implementing significant joint academic and community programs, such as The Center for the Study of Democracy. College faculty, staff, and students work side-by-side with Historic St. Mary's City staff to advance research, deliver instruction, and to provide community programming. In addition, the College and Historic St. Mary's City have collaboratively supported each other in their land-use and capital development programs through shared use of property, facilities, and infrastructure.

St. Mary's College of Maryland appreciates the Bill requirement to include a representative of the College to serve as a member of the Commission. We believe our unique expertise will be a valuable asset to the State and to the Commission in preparing for this most significant event - Maryland's 400th Anniversary.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 946.



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
President