



**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 228**  
**Maryland Corps Program - Revisions**  
**March 22, 2022**  
**Andy Clark, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Government Relations**  
**Favorable Report**

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 228. This legislation will expand access and success in higher education while strengthening Maryland's workforce and communities.

A service year through Maryland Corps will create a broader pipeline for participants moving from secondary education to colleges and universities or to employment with private corporations and nonprofit organizations throughout the region. Maryland Corps will also complement and take to scale existing investments in career and college readiness, such as The Choice Program at UMBC, which partners with the Department of Juvenile Services and currently works with 850 young people across the State who would be ideal candidates for service through Maryland Corps. Other university-based service programs that can be scaled span the state, from Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources at Frostburg University to Emerging Leaders Academy at University of Maryland Baltimore to ShoreCorps at Salisbury University to the Community Development Fellowship Program.

**Salisbury University:** [ShoreCorps](#) is the AmeriCorps program at Salisbury University, but members do not have to be students to serve. All members of the community are welcome to serve! ShoreCorps is a partnership with community-based organizations serving at-risk youth and other vulnerable populations.

**Frostburg State University:** [ASTAR](#) (Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources) is a Maryland AmeriCorps program. ASTAR provides direct, substantive services through our partnering programs in Maryland. AmeriCorps members provide direct service to build capacity within the agencies they serve.

**The University of Baltimore:** [The Community Development Fellowship Program](#) – housed in the Schaefer Center for Public Policy – gives dynamic, motivated students who have a strong interest in effecting positive change in urban areas the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and gain hands-on development experience. The students are matched with organizations that directly support Baltimore neighborhoods

The Maryland Corps offers a new pathway to colleges and universities for students who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to financial barriers or insufficient academic preparation. In addition to the financial support through the \$6,000 educational award, Maryland Corps service

will also provide opportunities for participants to develop professional, critical thinking, and leadership skills that will prepare them to arrive on campus ready to contribute to the campus community and more likely to succeed in their studies. Many Pell-eligible and first-generation students do not have the opportunity to pursue an internship and gain experience because it is unpaid. Simply put, many students can't afford to do service. Maryland Corps will fill this gap.

At a time when record numbers of workers are leaving jobs due to retirement and burnout, Maryland Corps promises a pipeline of fresh talent for roles in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

In addition to changing the life opportunities for young people, Maryland Corps allows higher education institutions to more intentionally and comprehensively integrate the values and principles of racial equity and inclusion into their community engagement and admissions work in several ways:

- Maryland Corps provides institutions an opportunity to break down barriers to enrollment by considering the value of experiences and skills developed through a service year. Ultimately, this strategy could keep more students in Maryland for their higher education.
- The regional focus of Maryland Corps creates synergies across higher education institutions throughout each region to build a network of purposeful, coordinated, and collective support for students and community-based partner organizations. This collaboration will strengthen each institution's role as an anchor institution for their local communities.
- Maryland Corps will also diversify and expand opportunities for higher education institutions' partnerships with community-based activities, including expanding partnerships with small, hyperlocal community-based and nonprofit organizations.
- Maryland Corps provides an opportunity for higher education institutions and communities to co-create service experiences and pathways to college and the workforce. This more authentic framework for community engagement supports the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement definition of partnership, specifically its foundational values of reciprocity and mutuality. Building these authentic partnerships could strengthen institutions' applications for the Community Engagement classification.

The USM urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 228.



### **About the University System of Maryland**

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.