

Senate Bill 136

Alland Leandre

Unfavorable Report

February 9, 2022

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College. I am the CEO of Vyalex Management Solutions, Inc. I was introduced to CSM back in 1990 when I served in the 121st Engineer Battalion in LaPlata MD. Later I got to be acquainted with CSM while working for the Naval Air Systems Command working as a senior electronics engineer working on the Navy's F/A-18. After graduating from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business with my MBA in 2002 I founded Vyalex which is an engineering and program management consulting firm. As CEO, I began a big push in Southern Maryland for Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) to push students into the related fields back in 2008 starting with the Youth in Technology Summits hosted by CSM. From the beginning CSM was a pivotal catalyst for STEM development in Charles County and in Southern Maryland at large. CSM participated in the 2009 CSM Robotics Challenge and placed second; this push has continued to this day. That championship headed by Professor Jeff Tjiputra focused on CSM's engagement of area youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives. It attracted more than 150 teams of elementary, middle, and high school students to the La Plata Campus, some from as far away as the Bronx, NY. Ten years later, in 2019, the CSM Robotics team (The Talons) placed 11th in the world in their division, fifth in the United States, and were one of only three U.S. community colleges to earn a spot at the VEX U World Robotics Championship before

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2

claiming global recognition. This is but one example of the many ways CSM has been critical in STEM education in Southern Maryland.



I joined the foundation's board of the college of Southern Maryland in 2009 and worked tirelessly with the college to make STEM a reality in Southern Maryland. I am totally devoted to getting our students engaged in STEM disciplines and careers. I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of Southern Maryland students. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would impact the STEM push for High School students in the region and complicate how the college delivers on such a critical educational program that benefits secondary school students in all three counties. I pray that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs do not support this bill.

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