

SB 136 Statement Gerrie.pdf

Uploaded by: David Gerrie

Position: FAV

DAVID E. GERRIE
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February 3, 2022

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chairman 2 West

Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: In Favor of SB 136

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the legislation before you, SB 136, *Transition to Charles County Community College*.

The existing structure of the regional College of Southern Maryland rests upon several assumptions:

- The component counties have essentially the same composition, interests and academic objectives;
- That economies of scale will bring benefits not available to the individual constituents; and
- A larger institution will achieve a greater academic and professional stature well beyond that of a single county.

Changes in the fabric of our society have significantly undercut these assumptions. If the creation of a regional college were now being first considered, these assumptions would no longer be considered adequate support.

A diverging common interest

Perhaps from a great distance Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties are merely components in a southern Maryland mass. From a local perspective, however, the business, professional and academic environments have diverged from the rural cultures of the past.

The counties no longer share the same outlook, objectives or social composition. What will meet the college needs of one county, will not necessarily meet the needs of another.

Economies of scale

In the twenty-two years since the founding of CSM, the economies that justified its existence have changed dramatically. Infrastructure support is, for example, best supplied at a state-wide, rather than a three-county basis. Components such as

transcripts and on-line learning platforms should be supported by existing Maryland agencies, including MHCC. This would reduce the current duplication of effort.

Larger institutions

Certainly, larger institutions can provide a greater range of services. Yet, from a local perspective, the larger the institution, the more remote it is from the community it serves. Presumably, local leaders are better situated to understand the changes in their community. Declining enrollments, changing employment markets, and the evolving requirements of students are best managed as closely as possible.

Since its founding, Maryland has evolved a system of local administrative jurisdictions that have successfully balanced the dangers of duplication of effort with the advantages of economies of scale. The county in Maryland allows for local specialization and control while preserving for the state the larger, cross-jurisdictional needs.

The larger institution also presents its unique dangers. As the college extends its geographic reach, it often erects academic and professional walls that turn the focus inward, rather than on the students and community it serves. While the “town and gown” stresses can be exaggerated, they should not be ignored.

SB 136 provides a welcome opportunity to evaluate the current educational model that may not meet the needs of current students in the affected counties as well as state-wide. Equitable access to higher education resources is our objective. This bill, I believe, is a valuable beginning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



David E. Gerrie

SB 0136 Avis McMillon Testimony - Dismantling CSM.

Uploaded by: Avis McMillon

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Avis McMillon
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties. Simply put, SB 136 is not in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland.

What is proposed in SB136 is not as straightforward as making CSM's La Plata and Hughesville campuses an independent college. Facilities, employees, and authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education are all essential components of the College of Southern Maryland (under the jurisdiction of CSM's Board of Trustees) and cannot be transferred to a different college by legislative action.

There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their “home” college would have to pay out-of-county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

SB0136_Comey_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Comey

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Dr. Bill Comey
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 have had the privilege of working at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) for the past thirty-six years. I have seen the college grow from a small liberal arts transfer institution serving mostly recent high school graduates to a much larger, nationally recognized comprehensive regional college serving a diverse student body across the entire Southern Maryland region. The success of the college has been built on expanding access, building partnerships, and leveraging resources across our region. Three smaller community colleges located in Southern Maryland could never have achieved the success or served the citizens of our region in the way CSM has been able to do.

I believe SB 136 would not serve the citizens of Charles County better. In fact, I believe it would decrease services and reduce educational offerings. The proposed small, stand-alone college it envisions would suffer from budget woes created by costly duplication of administrative services and drastically lowered enrollments as more than half the current students would be excluded from the new college because of county borders. There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college. This is one of the reasons the College of Southern Maryland was established as a regional college in 2000. Sure, being a regional college means that the sometime choices need to be made about how and where services and courses are offered at the college's various campuses, but the overall benefits that come from a large well-resourced regional institution over a small less-resourced county-based institution far outweigh any perceived drawbacks. Just consider the added cost of having not one, but two or three Human Resource Departments, Payroll Departments, Budget Offices, Procurement Departments, General Counsels, Information Technology Departments, Marketing Departments, etc. These are all added costs that would take services and resources away from students.

The benefits of a strong, diverse, economically vibrant regional institution were what brought our elected leaders together in the 1990's to put aside parochial concerns and work across county lines to establish the College of Southern Maryland. It is why Senator Mike Miller, Senator "Mac" Middleton and Senator Roy Dyson came together to jointly sponsor legislation to create the College of Southern Maryland. It is why the Calvert County Commissioners, the Charles County Commissioners, and the St. Mary's County Commissioners chose to forego party and county politics to endorse the formation of a regional college. They all recognized a good idea and worked to make it into a reality.

What was a good idea then, has turned into a great institution now. Since 2000, CSM has expanded its programs for students, has grown its educational offerings, has deepened its commitment to equity, has widened its footprint, and has increased its services to the entire Southern Maryland community.

I ask the members of this committee to reaffirm the vision that established the College of Southern Maryland.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

SB 136_MACC_UNF_B.Phillips.pdf

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: UNF



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

February 9, 2022

SB 136 - College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus - Transition to Charles County Community College

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, oppose this legislation that pulls the support of Charles County from the College of Southern Maryland and creates a new Charles Community College.

We find this legislation would have an inordinate financial burden for the taxpayers of Maryland and particularly on the citizens of Charles County. The College of Southern Maryland was formed as a regional community college to provide cost-efficient higher education services to the residents of the three counties. Since the merger of the three counties, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, CSM has grown to efficiency and effectively serve its constituency. The College has been nationally recognized for its excellence, particularly in STEM programming and equity work. It has twice been recognized by Aspen Institute for excellence in learning, transfer, workforce alignment, and equity and has been a recipient of millions of dollars in National Science Foundation grants, including the S-STEM which advances work with minority STEM students.

After decades of policy implementation to create a unified community college in southern Maryland, this legislation provides no detailed explanation as to the gains creating a separate community college for Charles County would do that cannot already be accomplished with the existing College of Southern Maryland.

Even worse, there seems to be a lack of understanding of what a new college would entail, such as accreditation, a new administration, and several other duplicative functions that would take years to implement, which would result in students living in Charles County with no other option but to attend the College of Southern Maryland as out-of-county residents. This would be a tremendous blow to equity and access, especially for low-income and minority students.

MACC asks that the Committee give this legislation an unfavorable report.

SB 0136 _ Dorothea Smith _ Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Dorothea Smith, CSM Trustee Emeritus
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

The existing facilities belong to the College of Southern Maryland, as do the educational programs. All existing employees currently work for the College of Southern Maryland. These are not things that can be transferred to a different college by legislative action.

Accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which allows for receipt of federal funds including federal financial aid and transfer of credit, is for the College of Southern Maryland.

A separate college in Charles County would have to secure facilities, hire employees, and receive authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which is a multi-year process. Students in a separate college would not be eligible for federal financial aid until it is accredited, nor could the separate college receive the more than \$1M in National Science Foundation funds for STEM scholarships that are currently available through the College of Southern Maryland.

There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their “home” college would have to pay out-of-county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

Dorothea Smith
3365 Forest Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

SB 0136 _ Joseph Shannon _ Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Joseph F. Shannon Jr. CSM Trustee Emeritus
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

Recognizing the positive power of collaboration and integration, CSM as it is regionally configured maximizes the opportunities for success of all the businesses of Southern Maryland. As the region grew in the 1960's each county developed a community college campus tailored to their needs. As the businesses and Federal Agencies grew they each recruited talent from across the country. In the 1990's we recognized the opportunity to build across political boundaries providing the burgeoning work force educational opportunities in a location best suited them.

By every measure this has been an unquestionable success.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

SB 0136 _ Tracy Harris _ Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 0136
Tracy Harris
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 0136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

The College of Southern Maryland continues to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for thousands of students in southern Maryland. The regional college format has been excellent in supporting students with varying curricula and academic needs. The three-county system has successfully funded many mandates, services, and opportunities where students can interact across county lines to fulfill their dream. I truly believe the dismantling of CSM would lead to astronomical expenses for each county to continue to service the academic, personal, and professional needs of our student, and the communities which we reside.

With that said, I oppose Senate Bill 0136.

Tracy A. Harris, Ph.D.
Vice President, Student Equity and Success

43155 Rosalind's Drive
Hollywood, Maryland 20636

SB 0136 _ Michael Besche _ Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Michael A Besche, CSM Trustee Emeritus
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

I am writing this letter out of great concern for the negative consequences that the enactment of SB 136 will have on the College of Southern Maryland.

The College's wellbeing is important to me personally, as I was involved in its governance for more than 20 years. I served two full terms and two partial terms on the Board of Trustees, was Chair for two years and later was a Board member of the Foundation for another 10 years.

When I was first involved with the College, there was only one campus, situated outside the town limits of La Plata. Then known as Charles County Community College, it ran small learning centers in both Calvert and St Mary's counties. As those centers grew, the local leaders became increasingly unhappy with having no ownership in the programs. Regionalization was the solution to problem, but getting all three sets of county commissioners to agree to a power-sharing agreement was delicate, and it took patience and tact to accomplish that goal.

No one can argue that the regionalization was anything but a resounding success.

SB 136 throws that away. You have received many letters with all the reasons why it's important for CSM to remain as is. I won't duplicate those arguments. Rather I will argue that no reasonable case can be made for the bifurcation of the institution.

I urge you to vote against SB 136.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A Besche, Trustee Emeritus

SB 0136_CSM Foundation_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF



College of Southern Maryland
F O U N D A T I O N

Senate Bill 0136
College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc.
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the college. We are a separate and distinct 501(c)3 organization with an all-volunteer board of members from across all three counties representing every facet of business and industry. We work to connect donors and regional partners in support of our students, faculty, programs, and community by cultivating relationships and stewarding assets consistent with our donors' intent. In the past 10 years alone, we have raised more than \$9.2 million in scholarship and program funds and awarded more than \$6.8 million in support of credit and workforce development scholarships and programs including the arts, athletics, nursing, STEM, technology, and outreach. We are transforming the lives of our students and enriching our community.

Our community is Southern Maryland - Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. We don't recognize borders or boundaries, in fact, we work to tear them down. We connect donors in Calvert County with students in Charles County, partners in St. Mary's County support programs in Calvert County. As a regional board, we support the *region*. Separating the college by county would separate donors from recipients, thus stripping students of their scholarships and programs of their sponsorships. In addition, it would prevent students in St. Mary's and Calvert from receiving Pell grants and other federal financial aid and it would destroy our regional programs like nursing, robotics, and athletics.

Because of the detrimental effect it would have on our students and programs, the College of Southern Maryland Foundation is vehemently opposed to Senate Bill 136. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would derail the education of students whose lives and educations have already been shaken by the continuing tumult of the COVID crisis. The repercussions of the pandemic have reverberated deeply at community colleges, which serve primarily part-time students who juggle families and jobs, and even in normal times struggle with basic needs like food, housing, childcare, and transportation. Demolishing their college could prevent an entire generation of students from receiving an education. If a generation of students disappears because of the whims of one misguided senator, where will that leave the state?

Sincerely,

The College of Southern Maryland Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

Kimberly Rosenfield '21
Chair

First Vice President - Morgan Stanley
Wealth Management
Charles County

Randall Williams
Vice Chair

President - Meinhardt Properties
St. Mary's County

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Owner - DM&T Development
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Shawn B. Coates

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Chief of Staff - Mission Integration
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Govt. Affairs & Community Relations -
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Charles County

Ted Harwood

Lead Engineer – KBR
St. Mary's County

Brenda Lowe

Treasury Management Sales Officer -
WesBanco Bank, Inc.
Charles County

Dixie Miller

Educational & Business Consultant –
Dixie Miller PRESENTS, LLC
Calvert County

David Osterhouse

Senior Associate - Mudd, Lakes and
Moreland, LLC
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Trey Proctor

Vice President - G.S. Proctor &
Associates, Inc.
Charles County

Harry Shasho

President & Broker - Shasho Consulting
PA Commercial Real Estate
Charles County

Gary Simpson

Principal Agent/Owner - Simpson's Olde
Towne Insurance
Charles County

Kelly Robertson-Slagle '95

Director of Economic Development -
Charles County
Charles County

Samantha Stratchko '18

Assistant Vice President, Commercial
Relationship Manager - Community Bank
of the Chesapeake
Calvert County

Kevin Switick

CEO | President - Avian Inc.
St. Mary's County

Eric Vrem

Executive Vice President of Operations -
Health Prime
Charles County

Joanna Yakaitis

Principal/ Director, Contract Pursuit
Proposal Team - Booz Allen Hamilton
Calvert County

SB 0136_Dr. Janice T. Walthour_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: CSM Foundation

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Dr. Janice T. Walthour
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

A former member of the Board of Trustees of the College of Southern Maryland, I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

The existing facilities belong to the College of Southern Maryland, as do the educational programs. All existing employees currently work for the College of Southern Maryland. These are not things that can be transferred to a different college by legislative action.

Accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which allows for receipt of federal funds including federal financial aid and transfer of credit, is for the College of Southern Maryland.

A separate college in Charles County would have to secure facilities, hire employees, and receive authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which is a multi-year process. Students in a separate college would not be eligible for federal financial aid until it is accredited, nor could the separate college receive the more than \$1M in National Science Foundation funds for STEM scholarships that are currently available through the College of Southern Maryland.

There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their "home" college would have to pay out-of-county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



Janice T. Walthour EdD
Former CSM Trustee

SB0136_Dianne McWilliams and Delores Datcher_Unfav

Uploaded by: Delores Datcher

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 0136
Dianne McWilliams, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Dr. Delores Datcher, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

We oppose Senate Bill 0136 – College of Southern Maryland – Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

We are proud to have served on the Charles County Community College Board of Trustees when it was transformed into the College of Southern Maryland. The process was complex, with lengthy research and planning, explaining and advocating for the concept to our community, other institutions and elected officials, both locally and statewide. Eventually, the measure was approved and the College of Southern Maryland became a new, unified, strong reality.

Two of the many reasons our Board of Trustees advocated the creation of the College of Southern Maryland are as follows:

1. The Students in our tri-county region would benefit.
 - Currently, the College of Southern Maryland offers over 200 Transfer Partnership Agreements with 60 colleges and universities nationwide. This means a student could earn a two-year degree at CSM and all his/her credits would transfer to a participating four-year institution. This student would then be able to acquire his/her Bachelor's degree from the four-year college or institute.
 - A student saves an average of \$11,000 in tuition by earning his/her Associate's degree at CSM and transferring to a four-year college, rather than attending the four-year institution for all four years.
 - These partnership agreements were made between the four-year institutions, other institutions (such as the U.S. Navy) and CSM. If CSM were dismantled under SB0136, and Charles County had its own community college, those agreements and the programs they represent would no longer exist.
 - These partnerships could not exist at a Community College of Charles County for 2-4 years, because it would take this long to become accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and such accreditation would be a requirement for a partnership to be created.
 - If we are not accredited, students will not qualify to receive Federal financial assistance, such as Pell grants.
 - Under SB0136, it would be questionable as to whether some credits earned by our students could transfer to four-year institutions.

- With the implementation of SB0136, the course and program offerings at a Charles County Community College would come into question. Courses are authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and they have an agreement with the College of Southern Maryland, not with Charles County Community College.
 - Under SB0136, a Charles County student in need of a class that is not available on the LaPlata campus, but the class offered by the campuses serving the College of Southern Maryland, would have to pay more tuition to take the class. Tuition for out-of-county students is higher than tuition for students residing in those counties.
2. A regional college unifies and strengthens our institution, as well as the entire Southern Maryland community.
- The College of Southern Maryland replaced a contractual relationship, that originally existed between the Charles County Community College and both Calvert County and St. Mary's County, with a partnership. This created an atmosphere of trust, a sense of equality, and a focus on our common goals.
 - A regional college strives to provide its students from all three counties with equal educations and opportunities.
 - A regional college saves money because there is not a duplication of efforts in administrative areas or instructional, student, facility and student services.
 - Our three counties have much in common both historically and currently. As a result, our educational needs are similar.
 - CSM prepares its students for the specific needs of the region's workforce. Approximately 90% of our graduates remain in the Southern Maryland area.

We do not believe that dismantling the College of Southern Maryland and creating a Charles County Community College would serve the educational needs of our students. In addition, it would increase the financial burden on our students and our taxpayers. Please vote AGAINST SB0136.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne McWilliams, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1990-2000; Chair 1996-1999

Dr. Delores Datcher, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1993-1999, Trustee, College of Southern Maryland 2000-2003; Chair 2001-2003

DC

SB0136_Dianne McWilliams and Delores Datcher_Unfav

Uploaded by: DIANNE MCWILLIAMS

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 0136
Dianne McWilliams, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Dr. Delores Datcher, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

We oppose Senate Bill 0136 – College of Southern Maryland – Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

We are proud to have served on the Charles County Community College Board of Trustees when it was transformed into the College of Southern Maryland. The process was complex, with lengthy research and planning, explaining and advocating for the concept to our community, other institutions and elected officials, both locally and statewide. Eventually, the measure was approved and the College of Southern Maryland became a new, unified, strong reality.

Two of the many reasons our Board of Trustees advocated the creation of the College of Southern Maryland are as follows:

1. The Students in our tri-county region would benefit.
 - Currently, the College of Southern Maryland offers over 200 Transfer Partnership Agreements with 60 colleges and universities nationwide. This means a student could earn a two-year degree at CSM and all his/her credits would transfer to a participating four-year institution. This student would then be able to acquire his/her Bachelor's degree from the four-year college or institute.
 - A student saves an average of \$11,000 in tuition by earning his/her Associate's degree at CSM and transferring to a four-year college, rather than attending the four-year institution for all four years.
 - These partnership agreements were made between the four-year institutions, other institutions (such as the U.S. Navy) and CSM. If CSM were dismantled under SB0136, and Charles County had its own community college, those agreements and the programs they represent would no longer exist.
 - These partnerships could not exist at a Community College of Charles County for 2-4 years, because it would take this long to become accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and such accreditation would be a requirement for a partnership to be created.
 - If we are not accredited, students will not qualify to receive Federal financial assistance, such as Pell grants.
 - Under SB0136, it would be questionable as to whether some credits earned by our students could transfer to four-year institutions.

- With the implementation of SB0136, the course and program offerings at a Charles County Community College would come into question. Courses are authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and they have an agreement with the College of Southern Maryland, not with Charles County Community College.
 - Under SB0136, a Charles County student in need of a class that is not available on the LaPlata campus, but the class offered by the campuses serving the College of Southern Maryland, would have to pay more tuition to take the class. Tuition for out-of-county students is higher than tuition for students residing in those counties.
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 - A regional college strives to provide its students from all three counties with equal educations and opportunities.
 - A regional college saves money because there is not a duplication of efforts in administrative areas or instructional, student, facility and student services.
 - Our three counties have much in common both historically and currently. As a result, our educational needs are similar.
 - CSM prepares its students for the specific needs of the region's workforce. Approximately 90% of our graduates remain in the Southern Maryland area.

We do not believe that dismantling the College of Southern Maryland and creating a Charles County Community College would serve the educational needs of our students. In addition, it would increase the financial burden on our students and our taxpayers. Please vote AGAINST SB0136.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne McWilliams, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1990-2000; Chair 1996-1999

Dr. Delores Datcher, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1993-1999, Trustee, College of Southern Maryland 2000-2003; Chair 2001-2003

DC

SB 0136 DiNatale UNFAVORABLE Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Dr. Lois DiNatale

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Dr. Lois E. DiNatale
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

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There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their “home” college would have to pay out-of-county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

SB0136_CSMFacultyResponse_unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: George Bedell

Position: UNF



To the Maryland General Assembly,

The College of Southern Maryland faculty are writing to express our surprise and disapproval regarding Senate Bill 136. We were frankly stunned upon learning that a senator elected to serve and support Charles County would put forward legislation so clearly harmful to the residents of Southern Maryland, and Charles County in particular. As professional educators, we find it particularly upsetting that this legislation is being proposed under the guise of education reform.

To us, education reform means fixing problems in a system that is badly broken. The College of Southern Maryland is not broken. Not only is CSM ranked highly both nationally and in the state of Maryland, we have twice been recognized by the Aspen Institute for the excellent work we do. This is an extremely challenging time in the US for community colleges - nationally, enrollments are down significantly, while state and local funding has diminished. Add to that the challenges of responding to an unprecedented health care crisis, one which particularly impacts group learning, and we have had many hurdles to overcome at CSM. We have responded to these trials with energy and innovation because we believe that what we do is fundamentally, vitally important to our community. Our college has the capacity to change the lives of Southern Maryland residents, giving them the opportunities that come with an affordable higher education - significantly more and better job prospects, the ability to attend a transfer institution, and the knowledge that expands world views and creates more engaged citizens.

The senator's proposal threatens to take all of this away from Southern Maryland. In these difficult financial times, it is unclear how the college could survive such a reckless disruption of our infrastructure. Over decades, the college has thoughtfully built up the systems and personnel needed to provide education efficiently across three counties. We have also built curricula and attained accreditation as a cohesive unit serving those three counties. This is not a ball of string that can be unraveled overnight; Senate Bill 136 will leave chaos, create undue and inefficient replication of staff and faculty positions, and waste tuition dollars and public funds, with no clear positive purpose or outcome.

We are particularly frustrated that Senator Ellis would introduce such legislation without any communication with his constituents here at the college. There are hundreds of employees at CSM who reside in Charles County. We are unaware of any attempts by Senator Ellis to reach out to these individuals who are both his constituents, but also vital stakeholders, to gain insight or information about what impacts his bill would have on the college and the lives of CSM employees.

We are proud of the work the college does, but we know any institution can be made better. Senate Bill 136, however, doesn't make anything better for anyone. We sincerely hope that you will consider how dangerous this legislation is for our community.

Sincerely,

The College of Southern Maryland Faculty Senate

La Plata Campus
8730 Mitchell Road, PO Box 910
La Plata, MD 20646
301-934-2251 • 301-870-3008

Leonardtown Campus
22950 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650
240-725-5300

Prince Frederick Campus
115 J.W. Williams Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
443-550-6000

Regional Hughesville Campus
6170 Hughesville Station Place
Hughesville, MD 20637
301-539-4730

SB 0136 Unfavorable Testimony- HHancock.pdf

Uploaded by: Helena Hancock

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136 – Unfavorable Report
Helena Hancock

Dear Chairman and committee members,

My name is Helena Hancock, I am a Charles County resident and an employee of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM).

I am writing today in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College. CSM is a regional college serving Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary’s counties. I do not believe that SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland.

More than two decades ago, it was decided that becoming a regional college would be beneficial to all of Southern Maryland; that has not changed. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the operations of CSM. For starters, CSM – like every college in the state – has been mitigating the pandemic for nearly two years, and that context is not reflected in anything being said currently about the college. The senator’s position that CSM has taken away STEM programs from Charles County is simply not true. You can get the full gambit of STEM programming as a Charles County student.

As far as the senator’s claim that CSM is taking away physical facilities including the La Plata Campus pool and the Children’s Learning Center (CLC):

- La Plata Campus’ 48-year-old Physical Education Building was closed when the campus went into remote operations in March 2020 – a moment that turned into a silver-lining that allowed CSM to address significant repairs to the facility. The earliest CSM could reopen the building is the fall of 2022. That said, CSM is in discussions with Charles County Government about the future of the pool in that building.
- The CLC too, was closed when the campus went into remote operations, along with the rest of the campus buildings. At that time, five of the children in the center were children of students; four were children of employees. And as with the pool, CSM is exploring several partnership opportunities for that facility to better serve our students as we emerge from the pandemic.

Our Focus to Finish initiative (7 Week Courses) offers significant short- and long-term benefits for our students. Devoting more energy and effort to each class makes for a better learning experience and better results from their education. The 7-week format lets students adapt their college experience to their life more easily, shifting course schedules to fit with other commitments and responsibilities.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give SB 136 an unfavorable report and I welcome Sen Ellis to visit CSM and have an open dialogue with staff/faculty members, many of whom are his constituents, and discuss how we can all work together to best serve students in our region.

SB 0136 Unfavorable Testimony from regional hospit

Uploaded by: Holly Meyer

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
CalvertHealth and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

We are writing today in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region. We do not believe SB 136 is in the best interests of students, residents, or local healthcare partners who continue to do the crucial work of caring for our community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CalvertHealth and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, two of the largest employers in Southern Maryland, rely heavily on CSM as a regional asset in workforce development. Never has this been more important than now, when health care as a whole has shed nearly 500,000 workers since February 2020, or approximately 30% of the workforce (*source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*).

At a time when fewer healthcare workers are reporting to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other crucial medical infrastructure, Southern Maryland continues to experience significant growth: a 9.6% population increase between 2010 and 2020, or more than 30,000 new residents (*source: U.S. Census Bureau*).

To deliver the quality care our community deserves, recruitment is an ongoing focus of our hospitals and providers. CSM is an important regional asset and major source of nursing graduates. It wasn't until 2000, when CSM became a tri-county community college, that the nursing program was able to be expanded. The nursing program doubled, with two cohorts of students now being accepted annually. CSM has subsequently graduated two classes of nurses every year. This expansion addressed the healthcare shortage then, and it is even more critical now.

We are stronger together. Hobbling the ability of tri-county students to access the regional resources that CSM provides is not in the best interests of our patients, community, workforce, or healthcare partners.

We respectfully ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.



Dean Teague, FACHE
President & CEO, CalvertHealth



Mimi Novello, MD, MBA, FACEP
President and Chief Medical Officer,
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
Senior Vice President, MedStar Health

SB0136_Raley_Unfav.pdf

Uploaded by: James K. Raley Jr.

Position: UNF

James K. Raley, Jr.
Post Office Box 52
Avenue, Maryland 20609
(301) 481-7927

Senate Bill 136
College of Southern Maryland - Charles County
Campus - Transition to Charles County
Community College
Unfavorable

February 4, 2022

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

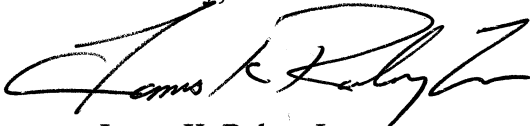
Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

I am a graduate of the Charles County Community College, which was the precursor institution to the College of Southern Maryland. I had the honor to serve for 10 years as a member of the College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees, holding the positions of Board Member, Vice Chairperson, and Chairperson, during my tenure. In my opinion, and based on the institutional knowledge that I have regarding the college, I submit that SB 136 is not in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, add to the tax burden of all three counties, and undermine the articulation agreements the college has with other institutions of higher learning.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give SB 136 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



James K. Raley, Jr.
Trustee Emeritus
College of Southern Maryland

Cc: Dr. Maureen Murphy, President, CSM

SB136 - College of Southern Maryland - Charles Cou

Uploaded by: John Norris

Position: UNF



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners

Christopher J. Gadway
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB136 – College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus –
Transition to Charles County Community College

Senator Pinsky:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes to **OPPOSE SB136**, as we understand the Commissioners from Charles and St. Mary's have as well. This Bill establishes the Charles County Community College and the Board of Community College Trustees for Charles County by transitioning the College of Southern Maryland's Charles County campus to the Charles County Community College. We believe the College of Southern Maryland has been successful at serving the educational needs of the residents of our region, partly because of the advantages it can leverage as a regional institution. The current regional model presents the best option for providing students from Charles County with access to quality higher education. With funding from each of our participating counties, the College is able to leverage resources for the benefit of all students and make course options available for all students across four campuses.

There are many factors that make this legislation extremely problematic, not least of which is the disruption that will occur from the unnecessary and unwarranted decoupling of this high-functioning resource. Thank you for the opportunity to present our **OPPOSITION** to **SB136**. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202, or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Steven R. Weems in blue ink.

Steven R. Weems, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Christopher J. Gadway in blue ink.

Christopher J. Gadway

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Kelly D. McConkey in blue ink.

Kelly D. McConkey

SB 136 Sample Testimony - Judith Mills.pdf

Uploaded by: Judith Mills

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Judith Mills
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

The existing facilities belong to the College of Southern Maryland, as do the educational programs. All existing employees currently work for the College of Southern Maryland. These are not things that can be transferred to a different college by legislative action.

Accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which allows for receipt of federal funds including federal financial aid and transfer of credit, is for the College of Southern Maryland.

A separate college in Charles County would have to secure facilities, hire employees, and receive authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which is a multi-year process. Students in a separate college would not be eligible for federal financial aid until it is accredited, nor could the separate college receive the more than \$1M in National Science Foundation funds for STEM scholarships that are currently available through the College of Southern Maryland.

There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their “home” college would have to pay out-of-county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

SB 0136_CSM_Murphy_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Maureen Murphy

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 136
Maureen Murphy, Ph.D., President
College of Southern Maryland
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 do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland. Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

The benefit of a regional college is that students from all three counties have access to a wide variety of educational opportunities without having to leave the region. Because it is a regional college, the College of Southern Maryland can offer these programs to Southern Maryland students at an in-county tuition rate. A separate, much smaller college in Charles County would not be able to afford the variety of offerings, which would either limit student opportunity or require them to attend another college at out-of-county tuition rates to receive their education.

Existing employees and buildings cannot simply be transferred. Those buildings belong to the Board of Trustees and the employees work for the College of Southern Maryland. A separate college in Charles County would have to secure facilities, hire employees, and receive authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which is a multi-year process.

Regional accreditation is what guarantees that credits transfer and that the institution is able to receive federal funds. Until it is fully accredited, students at this other college would have no access to federal financial aid, including Pell grants, and the college could not receive National Science Foundation or other grants.

La Plata Campus
8730 Mitchell Road, PO Box 910
La Plata, MD 20646
301-934-2251 • 301-870-3008

Leonardtown Campus
22950 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650
240-725-5300

Prince Frederick Campus
115 J.W. Williams Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
443-550-6000

Regional Hughesville Campus
6170 Hughesville Station Place
Hughesville, MD 20637
301-539-4730

It has come to our attention that the justification for SB 136 is based on some fundamental misunderstandings about the operations of the College of Southern Maryland. For starters, CSM – like every college in the state – has been mitigating the pandemic for nearly two years, going into a third year, and this context is important. Nothing is business as usual.

Statements regarding CSM moving STEM or health science programs out of Charles County are simply not true. The full range of STEM programs are offered at our La Plata campus in Charles County. In addition, and despite the pandemic, we were able to stand up a new charter of the National Society of Black Engineers in December of 2020 and a new Society of Women Engineers club in January of 2021. We are also proud to have been a recipient of a \$953,243 award from the National Science Foundation's Scholarships in STEM program to provide scholarship opportunities to STEM students, and a second NSF grant for \$257,912 to help students pursue degrees in cybersecurity. These grants would not be available to students attending the college proposed in SB 136.

Additionally, a Center for health Sciences, which will expand health education in Southern Maryland, is currently under construction at our Hughesville campus, in Charles County. We are hopeful the construction will be completed by late summer or early Fall.

Claims regarding closures do not at all consider the effects of the pandemic. When the College of Southern Maryland moved to remote operations in March of 2020, we did a deep assessment of our buildings. The Physical Education Building has been shut down for extensive repairs, costing over \$5M, and is not anticipated to reopen before Fall 2022. Further, the college has been exploring local partnerships for pool operations.

Likewise, the Children's Learning Center was closed when the campus went into remote operations. At that time, five of the children in the center were children of students; four were children of employees. And as with the pool, we are exploring several partnership opportunities for that facility to better serve our community as we emerge from the pandemic.

The college's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusivity is unsurpassed and permeates throughout our communities. CSM adding 7-week class schedules **alongside the 15-week class schedule** is part of our commitment to equity. The traditional academic calendar is a privileged structure, serving best students from families who can support their full-time attendance over two semesters with a summer off. CSM students are 65% part-time, over 80% are in the paid workforce, and nearly half report being primary caregivers of members of their families. We scaled 7-week courses to better serve these students, and a recent student surveys showed that 77% of students favored or were neutral about course length. Additionally, this schedule allowed 700 students who had not begun studies at the beginning of the Fall to begin mid-October.

A separate Charles County College will not serve the residents in Charles County well at all. It is move backward at a time when we need to embrace innovation. The cost of two community colleges would be an irresponsible use of public funds, and would decrease opportunities for Southern Maryland students at a time they need them most.

I urge the committee to give SB 136 an unfavorable report.

SB 136 - Unfavorable - St. Mary's County Commissio

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: UNF

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

**Senate Bill 136
College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus - Transition
to Charles County Community College**

OPPOSE

February 1, 2022

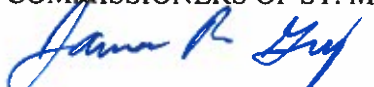
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **OPPOSE** SB 136 College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus - Transition to Charles County Community College which is being heard in the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

We **OPPOSE** the introduction of this legislation and do not believe this legislation would benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/014

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Catherine Pratson, Acting Co-County Administrator
David Weiskopf, Acting, Co-County Administrator

SB136 Letter of Opposition 20220128.pdf

Uploaded by: Reuben Collins

Position: UNF



Charles County Commissioners

REUBEN B. COLLINS, II, ESQ., PRESIDENT

January 28, 2022

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Bill: SB0136 College of Southern Maryland – Charles County Campus – Transition to
Charles County Community College
Position: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, and Members:

The Board of County Commissioners for Charles County convened a meeting on January 25, 2022 and voted at that time to **OPPOSE** SB136.

This bill establishes the Charles County Community College and the Board of Community College Trustees for Charles County by transitioning the College of Southern Maryland Charles County campus to the Charles County Community College.

We believe the College of Southern Maryland has been successful at serving the educational needs of our residents. There are many factors that make this legislation extremely problematic for Charles County, to include effectuating the transfer of assets, accreditation concerns, and ensuring the greatest availability of course offerings to our residents. Further, there is a significant fiscal note associated with the legislation that will be born by Charles County Government, without the corresponding increase in state funding.

Our current regional model presents the best option for providing students from Charles County with access to quality higher education. With funding from each of our participating counties, the College is able to leverage resources for the benefit of all students, and make course options available for all student across four campuses. Thank you for the opportunity to present our **OPPOSITION** to SB136.

Very truly yours,
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Members, Senate Education,
Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Charles County Delegation

Senate Bill 136_Unfavorable_Redmond.pdf

Uploaded by: Rodney Redmond

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Rodney Redmond
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. Having worked in the community college sector of higher education for over 25 years, I know from experience that the College of Southern Maryland is a nationally recognized education partner with many organizations, including several other community colleges, 4-year institutions and private partners within the State of Maryland. The College of Southern Maryland provides exceptional opportunities in learning and employment opportunities for the citizens of the Southern Maryland region.

Senate Bill 136, in my opinion and experience, does not provide opportunities in the best interest of the citizen of Charles county or the Southern Maryland region. First, the bill reduces access to learning and employment enhancement opportunities for citizens in the region. By dismantling the College of Southern Maryland, the citizens of the region would have less access to higher education at a reasonable cost, including the cost of travel and lodging. There would simply be fewer programs to provide the same or more learning and employment opportunities as the College of Southern Maryland does currently. The current programs belong to the College of Southern Maryland. The cost associate with replicating each of the various programs for students would create an added tax burden on the county and its citizens (all three counties in fact), making it cost prohibitive. Second, the bill would require replication of all the administrative services already in place, which is an additional cost to be either passed on to the students in tuition and fees, pricing college attendance out of their range, and passed on to the citizens of the county and the region, increasing the tax burden on the citizens. The current establishment allows for these resources to be shared at scale for all College of Southern Maryland goes, without added out-of-pocket costs or tax burden.

Then, there is the replication of the need for accreditation. The College of Southern Maryland is currently accredited as one institution by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This single accreditation allows the college to receive federal funds such as Pell grant funds which are awarded to our students to help reduce and in some cases eliminate their out-of-pocket costs. Through accreditation, the College is also eligible for other federal funds and grants that help reduce cost for students and reduce the cost of building programs that support student learning. As a direct result of accreditation, our students are able to transfer to other colleges and universities to continue their educational pursuits. The new college would not be accredited for a few years; thus, the students who enroll will have higher out-of-pocket costs and would not be able to transfer their credits to other colleges or universities.

Additionally, there are facilities at the College of Southern Maryland which belong to the College of Southern Maryland. Facilities are not easily transferred by legislation or the stroke of a pen. Many of these facilities are regional facilities that serve students across the region, regardless of home county. Having to purchase, rebuild, or repurpose facilities would be an added burden on the leadership of the proposed new college, the tax payers and the students. Where would the students take classes in the meantime? How would they have access to the top technological advances they now have, while

awaiting the development and establishment of the new college? This all sounds confusing to me, an educator of 25+ years. I fail to see how adding more confusion and uncertainty into the lives of our students benefits them. I fail to see how reducing learning and employment opportunities for our students and citizens of the region benefits them. I fail to see how increasing the cost for education all while eliminating the opportunities to expand that education are beneficial to the county, the region or their citizens.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.

CSM testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie McCaslin

Position: UNF

The College of Southern Maryland is an institution that meets the needs of a widely varied student body. From school aged children who attend “Kids College,” traditional college-aged students who take rigorous academic classes, returning college students who learn new trades or new careers, adult learners who learn for enjoyment, even our furry friends (pet obedience)! As a longstanding resident of Charles County, I know that I travel between each of the three counties of Southern Maryland for work and pleasure on a frequent basis. We truly are one community, able to merge our different locales, political ideals, and stories together at CSM. The students of CSM are no different. They will take a class on one campus one day, and a class at another the next.

Personally, I have CSM to thank for my own livelihood. I moved to Maryland because of CSM 27 years ago. I was a young mother, and wanted a fresh start at an affordable education. I was able to earn my Associates degree, and then I went on to earn a Bachelors, Masters, and PhD, so that I could contribute to education of others.

SB 0136 harwood Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Theodore Harwood

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 136
Theodore L. Harwood II
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. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized (www.intelligent.com) regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region. Of the 2900 universities and colleges (both 2 year and 4 year) rated by intelligent.com, CSM ranks 1st in Business Administration associate degrees, 1st in Administration and Management associate degrees, 1st in Workforce Development, 11th in IT and Systems Programs associate degrees, and 22nd in accounting (best in the southeast) associate degrees. Additionally, our robotics team, competing in the 2019 VEX U robotics tournament placed 5th in the country and 11th in the world. This last year they placed 42nd worldwide (tied with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University).

CSM is essentially a force multiplier for all students and is renowned for supplying CSM graduates to southern Maryland tri-county businesses and provides workforce development for “home grown” professionals and local businesses. Over 90% of CSM graduates remain in and/or return to southern Maryland.

As a former CSM Chairman of the Board of Trustees (2017-2020), a Trustee Emeriti, and current Director in the CSM Foundation Board, I do not believe SB 136 is in the best interest of the students, taxpayers, and businesses in Southern Maryland. Instead, it will significantly limit the ability of the students to get a quality education, as dismantling CSM will significantly decrease access for students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, reduce availability of professional workforce, and add to the tax burden of all three counties.

Additionally, accreditation is required by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MHEC). Without this accreditation we cannot receive federal funds, including federal financial aid and transfer of credit. This accreditation is owned exclusively by CSM. A separate college in Charles County would be required to receive authorization to operate through MHEC and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This is a multi-year process. Students in a separate Charles County college would not be eligible for federal financial aid until it is accredited, nor could the separate college receive the more than \$1M in National Science Foundation funds for STEM scholarships that are currently available through CSM.

Since our inception on July 1, 2000, CSM has become a nationally known and recognized progressive, innovative, and technologically-advanced institution. As a regionally-accredited institution that prides itself on delivering high quality educational services, it also serves as a catalyst for business, industry, and government to identify the resources needed to grow and maintain a healthy economy and community.

It is not broke, far from it, don't try to fix it by tearing it apart.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.