

SB 325
**Support with
Amendment**

TO: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, State Affairs, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

DATE: March 22, 2022

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine urges a **favorable** report on **SB325 – Student Data Privacy – Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy Council** with one important **amendment**. This bill provides increased protections for certain student data. Unless amended, however, we believe it may have an unintended consequence of limiting student choice particularly for first-generation and/or underrepresented minority students considering post-secondary education.

Johns Hopkins specifically requests an amendment to the *operator* definition in Senate Bill 325, to exempt the providers of nationally recognized high school exams that are used for college entrance or placement, college credit, or scholarship opportunities.

When students take the SAT, for instance, they can opt-into Student Search Service which connects thousands of colleges and scholarships with more than 5 million students. Students contacted by colleges through Student Search are, on average, 25% more likely to enroll in a 4-year college and 31% more likely to graduate on time from a 4-year college. We specifically use this program to encourage students to consider our institution for their college experience.

In one recent class, Johns Hopkins contacted 72.2% of the students who enrolled through Student Search but the percentage was even higher for first-generation students (75%) and underrepresented minority students (80.5%).

Amending the definition of operator will ensure that students who choose to can opt-in to share their data and receive information from higher education institutions like ours, as well as information about scholarship opportunities. Protecting students' data remains one of our top priorities, and we want to make sure students have access to all the opportunities available to them while protecting their privacy. Programs like Student Search Service allow families the choice to sign up and opt out at any time. We are required to adhere to strict guidelines to ensure student data remains private and used only for educational purposes.

We believe all students deserve the same opportunity to access information that can support their transition to college. This amendment will continue providing students with opportunities to they may not otherwise receive without it. Thank you for your consideration.