

_SB620CarolineThorneSGA_fav (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Caroline Thorne

Position: FAV

Committees: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB620 Institutions of Higher Education - Sports Wagering Contracts - Prohibition

Position: Favorable

21 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and the members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB620 that prohibits higher education institutions from entering into contracts with gambling entities in which the institution receives compensation for student participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important piece of legislation. My name is Caroline Thorne and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the University of Maryland Student Government Association. On behalf of our SGA, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 620 to ensure that students are not subject to exploitive gambling marketing practices from their institution.

This legislation prevents higher education institutions from entering into contracts in which the university receives compensation from student participation. At the University of Maryland, College Park, we are grateful to not attend a school which partakes in one of these contracts, and want to avoid this from occurring in the future. Institutions of higher education have a responsibility to foster an environment conducive to learning. Promoting gambling to students through their platforms directly contradicts this responsibility. College aged students are often in a new and unfamiliar environment without their usual support systems, and therefore may be more likely to fall victim to addictive practices like gambling. Schools also may not have the resources to support students facing unhealthy gambling habits or addiction. The bottom line is that schools should not exploit students for profit, and this bill prevents that from happening in this way.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB620.

Thank you,



Caroline Thorne (she/her/hers)
Student Government Association Director of Government Affairs
University of Maryland — College Park,
cthorne@terpmail.umd.edu

SB620_FAV_Hettleman.pdf

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

SHELLY HETTLEMAN
Legislative District 11
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

Vice Chair
Rules Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3131 · 301-858-3131
800-492-7122 Ext. 3131
Shelly.Hettleman@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN

SB 620 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – SPORTS WAGERING CONTRACTS – PROHIBITION

Since the U.S. Supreme Court made way for collegiate sports betting in 2018, there has been a gold rush for online college sports betting contracts. Now, colleges and universities are entering into contracts with gaming entities in exchange for monetary compensation. SB 620 will prevent predatory practices that have occurred in other states from taking root at Maryland higher educational institutions.

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Congress could not prohibit states from legalizing collegiate sports betting. Those opposing this decision (who were also parties in the case) included the NCAA, NBA, NFL, NHL, and the MLB. These sports agencies felt that betting on college sports would corrupt the games, and they wanted to preserve the integrity and sanctity of the sporting matches. Now that this decision is the law of the land, states are free to regulate sports betting as they please – without input from the federal government.

While this ruling is great for states' liberty, the problem of colleges profiting from student gambling remains. In 2021, Michigan State University negotiated a contract with Caesar's Sportsbook worth \$8.4 million over 5 years. Negotiators called this "the largest sportsbook deal in college athletics." The same year, Louisiana State University (LSU) signed a similar deal with Caesars. LSU encouraged students – including those under 21 – to "place your first bet (and earn your first bonus)." In 2020, the University of Colorado Boulder accepted \$1.6 million to promote sports gambling on campus, and a betting company sweetened the deal by offering the school an extra \$30 every time someone downloaded the company's app and used a promotional code to place a bet.

Notwithstanding the monetary aspect of this issue, these college-gaming company partnerships raise important issues. Promoting gambling on campus does not fit the mission of higher education. These partnerships make young people vulnerable to developing gambling addictions, including those underage, and the terms of the arrangements between the gambling firms and the universities are allowed to remain hidden. According to the NYT series (footnoted above) on how online gambling has exploded so quickly, many terms of the arrangements between universities and online gambling companies are shielded because, technically, the contract is between a sports marketing firm hired by the university and the gaming company. Even the American Gaming Association, the premier national trade group for the U.S. casino industry, agrees that sports wagering should not be promoted or advertised in college or university-owned news assets or advertised on college or university campuses.

SB 620 puts students' mental health and academic success first by:

1. Prohibiting institutions of higher education from being paid to secure student participation in gambling; and

2. Making contracts between colleges and gambling companies subject to public inspection under the Maryland Public Information Act.

First and foremost, colleges and universities should be environments conducive to learning and they should not be permitted to profit off of student bet-making. Finally, to ensure accountability, deals made between online gambling companies (or their intermediaries) and public universities should be subject to public review.

I urge a favorable report on SB 620, and I thank you for your consideration.

Info from USM

Uploaded by: Patrick Hogan

Position: INFO



SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 620
Institutions of Higher Education - Sports Wagering Contracts - Prohibition
February 22, 2023
Information

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information regarding Senate Bill 620. The bill prohibits institutions of higher education from entering into a contract with certain regulated gaming entities or agents if the institution of higher education receives compensation for student participation in sports wagering.

Chapter 492 of 2020 authorized sports and event wagering generally, subject to voter referendum, which was approved by Maryland voters in November 2020.

The institutions comprising the University System of Maryland (USM) have no plans or intention to enter into the types of agreements or contracts with any regulated gaming entities cited in the bill and therefore do not object to the prohibition called for in the bill.

Additionally, as advised in the fiscal note, this bill has no fiscal impact on the USM and our institutions.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share this information on Senate Bill 620.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of twelve institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards eight out of every ten bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of twenty-one 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.

USM Office of Government Relations - Patrick Hogan: phogan@usmd.edu