

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,



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