

Senate Bill 812
Higher Education - Disciplinary Records - Use in Admissions and Disciplinary Proceedings
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 24, 2023

Unfavorable

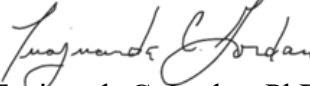
Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 812. Currently, St. Mary's College does not seek information regarding the disciplinary records of applicants who are in high school on neither the Common Application nor the College's own application. The College does, however, consider a student's disciplinary history if they seek admission as a transfer student. The Common Application college report, which is used by students wishing to transfer from another institution, requires the previous institution to disclose any disciplinary history and to indicate whether or not the student would be permitted to return to that institution in good standing. We understand that in the K-12 sector, there is evidence of disciplinary bias against marginalized students, especially males. However, in college, students are at a more mature developmental level and, as adults, should be held to a higher level of accountability. Data indicate there is a high correlation that a student's past disciplinary history at one institution of higher education will be repeated at another. This is information relevant to admission decisions to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

Admission of transfer students is based on many factors to ensure that prospective students have the qualifications necessary to succeed. Past disciplinary history, however, does not categorically disqualify a prospective student from being admitted. The College will evaluate the nature of the student's past disciplinary history to determine whether the conduct in question rises to the level of warranting a denial of admission. Preserving the College's ability to consider the disciplinary history of a transfer student is essential, as it ensures that all of our students may thrive in a safe and robust academic environment.

For these reasons, I urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 812.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.


Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
President

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