

CATHI FORBES  
Legislative District 43B  
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees  
Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development  
Chair, Oversight Committee on Pensions



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 304  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3487 · 301-858-3487  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3487  
Catherine.Forbes@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1179**  
**University System of Maryland – Affiliated Foundations**

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes  
Environment and Transportation  
March 10, 2023

***What this bill does***

This bill is necessary to allow the University System of Maryland (USM) affiliated foundations and their employees, to accept and administer certain grants. Without this legislation the USM has determined that allowing USM employees who work for foundations to accept grants may put them at risk of violations of ethics laws.

***Why this bill is necessary***

This policy will allow affiliated foundations to accept certain grants, primarily to benefit faculty research. These grants are only accepted by foundations when the university cannot accept them, usually because the grant must go to a 501(c)3 entity, or because of certain other conditions that the university cannot accept.

- There are very clear rules and processes between a university and its affiliated foundation to ensure that affiliated foundations accept these grants only when all other avenues have been exhausted.
- System foundations accept several million dollars a year in these grants funds, a very small percentage of the total research dollars granted across the System, but still very important to faculty – often young faculty – seeking support for their research.
- For years, many affiliated foundations have taken on the risk and administrative burden of accepting those grants, so that research funds are available for faculty.

***Why you should vote for this bill***

This legislation will allow foundations to accept grants while ensuring that foundation employees are protected and in compliance with our ethics laws. Most importantly, we want to ensure that every legitimate revenue source is available to our faculty across they system for research.

I ask for a favorable report.

Thank you.