

Honorable Ben Barnes and members of the Higher Education - Antihate and Antidiscrimination Policies and Workgroup

My name is Nadia Carrell and I have been a District 18 constituent, homeowner and taxpayer for over 32 years.

I strongly oppose bill 1462

This legislation is in line with the Trump-led repression of civil society, universities and social justice movements and would only further the restriction of free speech and political dissent on campuses.

The reporting requirement incentivizes campus administrators to repress speech that is **perceived** to be controversial, such as anti-war expressive activities.

Furthermore, the requirement to allow the submission of anonymous complaints is deeply problematic. Individuals might easily abuse such anonymity to lodge baseless complaints against those with whom they have a personal or ideological conflict, without fear of repercussion. Behind the shield of anonymity, it may be impossible to know if the accuser is acting in good faith, or at the behest of an outside group with a strong political agenda. Even if ultimately cleared, those anonymously and falsely accused may still face suspicion or negative repercussions impacting family or career.

The Hate-Bias report central to the bill's reporting requirements and enforcement is not a comprehensive picture of the experiences of marginalized people in Maryland since discrimination and attacks on Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities are under-reported and under-recognized.

The University of Maryland has announced large budget cuts based on the Governor's budget. Cuts to the budget of Maryland's flagship academic institution shows that the FY2026 budget can not afford this \$500,000 allocation, which would mean taking money from academic programs to suppress student speech.