

## Testimony for House Bill 1462 – Unfavorable

### Appropriations Committee

March 3, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, I am writing to oppose the Maryland Campus. Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students Act” HB 1462. I am a long time resident of District 47. Members of my family have attended the University of Maryland and I have contributed to the education of students in medical training.

This bill is another example of proposed legislation this year that appears to be helping protect against antisemitism and racism but instead increases limits on student protests and comes at a time when the majority of student protests have been against Israeli genocide in Gaza and displacement in the West Bank. These justifiable protests against United States support for Israeli attacks on Palestinians have been met with violence and suppression of speech on campuses. Similar suppression of support for the people of Gaza has been carried out against high school teachers in Montgomery County and medical students and doctors in multiple locations around the country. Enough is enough.

Problematic aspects of HB 1462 include the submission of anonymous complaints, repression of “controversial” speech, and the time/place/manner restrictions. Today it appears that any support for Palestinians is “controversial”; protests against the Viet Nam war would today fall under similar constraints. The rulers of our country are getting more and more determined to control opposition. Maryland does not need to jump on this bandwagon. Last year the University of Maryland designated peaceful protest to be away from the student center and pathways where students could have more easily been reached and placed on a large grassy area behind a library. The University does not need more encouragement to hide dissenting views.

Finally I am disturbed by the requirement that all institutions commit to involving security or law enforcement for political expression that causes “significant disruption”. Arresting students and putting them in the hands of the state is too far a reach. Derailing student debate and political expression is antithetical to the role of the university. Spending taxpayer dollars in such a way is a misuse of public funds.

I urge you to reject HB 1462 and issue an UNFAVORABLE report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda D. Green MD

Mount Rainier, Maryland

