

Good afternoon members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I am a Jewish student at the University of Maryland. I am speaking today for the unfavorable position of the bill. This bill allocates \$500,000 to the University System of Maryland for the purposes of enforcement. As a state, we are experiencing a \$3 billion deficit. Governor Moore has cut \$200 million from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Given these cuts, it is unfair to expect Maryland taxpayers to foot the bill for legislation that does more to harm student speech than protect it.

Moreover, this bill is being debated after the Trump administration just signed an executive order deporting students who support Palestine. Instead of codifying punitive measures that inadvertently pave the way for fascism in our state, we should be discussing how to respond to this administration's unacceptable attacks on students. We should not be giving ammunition to the side that is calling for peaceful protesters to be arrested.

A "significant disruption" can mean a lot of things. At my campus, we are forbidden from using amplified sound at protests because it is allegedly disrupting our classmates. Yet the University of Maryland prides itself for having the largest quad in America. We also claim to be representing a diversity of backgrounds and opinions. Just as the school cannot reconcile its self-claimed "openness" with its blatant restrictions, this bill cannot reconcile its desire to protect students with the fact that it makes it harder for them to speak out. Due to this unsolvable problem, I urge you to vote for the unfavorable position on the bill.