

TO: The Honorable Senator Brian Feldman
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

SB9
Favorable

FROM: Michael Huber
Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: January 22, 2025

RE: SUPPORT – SB9 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Academic Program Approval – Revisions Favorable

Johns Hopkins supports SB 9 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Academic Program Approval – Revisions. The bill clarifies that private institutions of higher education are required to submit letters of intent every six months. It also clarifies that any institution of higher education in Maryland may propose emerging workforce need graduate programs.

These changes are vital to allow Johns Hopkins University to continue to meaningfully contribute to the State’s economic competitiveness by allowing institutions of higher education, including Johns Hopkins University, to remain competitive.

Research and advanced degrees are fundamental drivers of economic growth, innovation, employment, and wealth creation in Maryland. The significant contributions of institutions like Johns Hopkins University cannot be overstated. Institutions depend on the ability to be agile in the design and implementation of graduate programmatic offerings. Research and innovation are at the core of many of JHU’s mission statements, and we need the ability to rapidly develop programs – such as what we are doing in the AI space – in response to scientific research breakthroughs, shifting societal or economic trends, and even newly identified national threats or priorities.

We greatly appreciate the Maryland General Assembly’s partnership over the years, and we look forward to continued collaboration on this important issue to institutions of higher education and to the State.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB9**.