
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 5, 2025

**SB 847 – Higher Education - Antihate and Antidiscrimination Policies and Workgroup
(Maryland Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students Act)**

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 847** with amendments. This bill takes important steps to enhance campus safety, strengthen antihate and antidiscrimination policies, and ensure institutions have clear guidelines for responding to incidents of harassment, violence, and intimidation. Community colleges serve one of the most diverse student populations in Maryland, enrolling students from a wide range of racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Ensuring that all students can pursue their education in a safe and inclusive environment is a shared priority, and SB 847 provides a structured approach to handling discrimination and hate-based incidents while fostering campus-wide engagement and accountability.

While MACC fully supports the intent of this legislation, we recommend two amendments to ensure its implementation is practical and equitable for community colleges. First, we request clarification that MACC's Executive Director shall designate the community college representative on the specified Workgroup, rather than having the representative appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education. This ensures that community colleges retain direct control over their own representation in policy discussions that directly impact their institutions and students. Second, while we recognize the State's budget constraints, community colleges and county budgets are also strained. Implementing SB 847 will require training, reporting, and administrative resources, and a funding mechanism would help institutions meet these requirements. MACC is committed to working with bill sponsors and policymakers to support successful implementation without creating undue financial burdens.

MACC appreciates the commitment to enhancing campus safety, promoting inclusivity, and addressing discrimination in higher education. With these targeted amendments, SB 847 will more effectively support all Maryland institutions, including community colleges, in achieving these shared goals. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 847** with **AMENDMENTS**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.