



**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND**

March 11, 2025

**The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401**

**The Honorable Benjamin S. Barnes, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401**

RE: Senate Bill 653/House Bill 819 - Procurement - Employee Stock Ownership Plan Preference - Pilot

Chair Guzzone and Chair Barnes:

The University System of Maryland (USM) understands that the sponsors of SB 653 and HB 819 plan to submit amendments exempting the USM "*...in its entirety...*" from the requirements of the proposed legislation.

As such, pending amendment, the USM respectfully withdraws our opposition to the bills as introduced. We appreciate that the sponsor and supporters recognize the complexities and challenges associated with the challenges this measure would have created for USM.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan'.

Susan F. Lawrence
Vice Chancellor, Government Relations
University System of Maryland

Cc: Senator Cory McCray
Delegate Pam Guzzone