

HB 1322: Higher Education - Freedom of Expression on Campus - Protection
(**Maryland Campus Area Free Expression Act**): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1322** during committee consideration or floor votes.

Free speech on college campuses is under increasing pressure nationwide—through speech codes, bias reporting systems, disinvitation campaigns, and selective enforcement of rules. **Public universities in Maryland, funded by taxpayers, have a special obligation to uphold the First Amendment and foster an environment where all viewpoints can be expressed, debated, and challenged openly.**

This bill does not protect unlawful conduct (threats, harassment, true incitement, or destruction of property), but it ensures that lawful expression—whether conservative, liberal, religious, secular, or otherwise—cannot be silenced or confined to tiny corners of campus. **It promotes intellectual diversity, protects students from viewpoint discrimination, and reaffirms that public higher education should be a marketplace of ideas, not an echo chamber.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1322** and help safeguard free expression and open debate on Maryland's public college and university campuses.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this critical First Amendment, academic freedom, and student rights legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals