

Testimony in Support of HB1322: Higher Education – Freedom of Expression on Campus – Protection (Maryland Campus Area Free Expression Act)

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Brigitta Mullican and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of **HB1322, the Maryland Campus Area Free Expression Act.**

Freedom of speech and expression is a cornerstone of higher education and a fundamental right protected by the First Amendment. HB1322 ensures that students, faculty, and invited speakers can **express their views on campus without fear of censorship or retaliation**, while preserving a safe and orderly environment.

Universities should be spaces where ideas are freely debated and diverse perspectives are respected. Unfortunately, incidents of speech being shut down or speakers being blocked have become all too common. This legislation safeguards open dialogue and helps create a campus culture that **values debate, critical thinking, and intellectual freedom.**

I strongly urge the committee to **vote in favor of HB1322**, protecting freedom of expression and ensuring that Maryland's colleges and universities remain places where ideas can be freely explored and discussed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brigitta Mullican, Rockville, MD 20851 ~ Legislative District 17.