



**House Economic Matters Committee**  
**Senate Bill 818**  
**State Center - Development - Contract, Plan Requirements, and Advisory Group**  
**April 1, 2026**  
**Favorable**

Good Afternoon Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the committee, I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 818**, which establishes an advisory group to provide input on the State Center development. As the president of the University of Baltimore, this project's development will benefit both the institutions near State Center and the neighborhoods that surround it.

The State Center redevelopment represents one of the most significant urban development opportunities in Baltimore City. This state-owned property has the potential to catalyze economic growth, create jobs, strengthen anchor institutions, and revitalize surrounding communities. Meaningful community engagement is key to helping the project be successful and supported by the neighboring communities.

The University of Baltimore is named in SB818 as a designated member of the State Center Advisory Group. As an anchor institution located near State Center, we have both a responsibility and a vested interest in this development's success. University of Baltimore received a 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, for deepening partnerships, leveraging community assets, and addressing urgent societal challenges. Our students, faculty, and staff will be directly impacted by State Center's transformation. SB818 provides the governance structure necessary for institutions like ours to participate meaningfully in shaping State Center's future.

State Center represents an opportunity to demonstrate that large-scale urban development can benefit both anchor institutions and surrounding communities. SB818 provides the governance framework, community engagement mechanisms, and accountability measures necessary to realize that vision.

I support SB818 and urge this committee to issue a **favorable report**.



Office of the President

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