



**BILL:** SB295 (HB465) - Civil Actions - Immunity - Disclosure of Allegations of Sexually Assaultive Behavior (Stop Silencing Survivors Act)

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**HEARING DATE:** February 6th, 2026

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Student Government Association represents over 11,000 undergraduate students from every county in Maryland. As such, we fully support SB295, the Stop Silencing Survivors Act, in recognition of victims of sexual assault across the state of Maryland.

Our university's history around Title IX and sexual violence makes it morally imperative that we advocate for policy to prevent further silencing of survivors. The shocking report released in 2024 revealed UMBC's lack of compliance with Title IX policies, having received several serious allegations of sexual harassment perpetuated and unreported by multiple members of the community. Every student should have the opportunity to seek justice for these transgressions without the fear of retaliation or reprisal.

This issue is not isolated to UMBC and impacts students across the state. According to a 2014 report from the Department of Justice, 20% of female college students cite fear of reprisal as a reason for not reporting instances of sexual harassment or violence. SB295 seeks to assuage some of these worries by establishing protections for those who disclose knowledge of these crimes in good faith. This is an essential step toward establishing a community where students feel safer reporting these incidents. This creates an environment of transparency and accountability, not just at UMBC, but for any student who chooses to pursue higher education.

Given the positive impacts that this bill would have on all Maryland students, UMBC SGA respectfully requests a **favorable committee report**.



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