

March 9, 2021

To: Chair Molly Baumgardner  
Members of Senate Education Committee

The University of Saint Mary (USM) is writing to express its support as a proponent of HB 2070.

For its fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20, USM incurred credit card fees of \$92,558 and \$90,403 respectively. Like most small, non-profit liberal arts institutions, USM operates on thin operating margins and these fees are a significant expense for our institution. Many of our students are low income and USM strives to find the balance of keeping tuition affordable while maintaining a fiscally sound operating margin. The funds spent of these fees could be used elsewhere such as funding student scholarships or expenses related to fulfilling its mission.

These fees also place us at a competitive disadvantage with the Regent's schools as well as schools in most neighboring states since these schools have the option of passing credit card fees along to their students. USM does not have the option of passing along these fees. It should also be noted that we give our students multiple payment options for which we do not incur processing charges such as cash, check and ACH.

We respectfully request that USM be permitted the same ability as the other Regent's schools to pass along credit card fees. Thank you for your consideration for HB 2070.

Sincerely,



Nancy Bramlett  
Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services  
University of Saint Mary