



Support with Amendments

House Appropriations Committee

House Bill 167: Higher Education - State Payments to Private Institutions - Unserved Student Populations

Timothy Trainor, President

February 11, 2020

On behalf of Mount St. Mary's University, located in northern Frederick County, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on *HB 167: Higher Education - State Payments to Private Institutions - Unserved Student Populations*. **The Mount supports the bill as proposed to be amended by the sponsor.** We have an annual enrollment of just over 2,500 students and we are grateful to the State of Maryland for its longstanding partnership with all of the MICUA institutions.

We are grateful to the sponsor for working with us to craft a solution that is not institution-specific, but rather, will benefit all eligible recipients of the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship. We believe strongly that it is important to facilitate the successful completion of a baccalaureate degree by students who complete an associate's degree and we believe the amendment will better accomplish this goal. The amendment will award these students real money as opposed to the nominal awards as currently exist in statute.

This year, we have 69 former students from Frederick Community College enrolled at the Mount's two campuses in Frederick County, with all but two who are commuter students. These hard-working students who typically are balancing work and school, and some raising a family, need financial support to make their educational dreams a reality. We and the other MICUA schools are supporting them, however increasing and expanding the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship program will provide these students greater opportunity and choice in completing their undergraduate education and filling the workforce needs of their Maryland communities.

Thank you for your attention, and Mount St. Mary's respectfully urges a FWA report.