



Maryland Independent College
and University Association

Written Support

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

House Bill 98 (Washington) – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program – Alterations (Maryland College Access Act)

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 65,600 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of ***House Bill 98 (Washington) – Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program – Alterations (Maryland College Access Act)***.

House Bill 98 would make permanent the college access pilot program that assists nonprofit organizations in facilitating low-income and minority students' college aspirations and provides annual appropriations through the State budget. Now more than ever, the outreach efforts to encourage students to enroll in a college or university is vital to their future aspirations and career goals. Every Maryland student should be provided support services to educate them on the various post-secondary educational opportunities that exist after high school. This program has been instrumental in increasing college access to low-income Maryland high school students and helping to complete a college education.

Our member institutions partner with nonprofit organizations that prioritize this student population, and they are eager to see this legislation pass to allow for long-term connections. MICUA students who have participated in this program highlight the outstanding college access support services that prepare them to matriculate into a higher education institution. Passage of the Maryland College Access Act and the dedicated funding create a permanent pipeline for families that desire additional services to access college and ensure the program's continued success.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 98.