



Letter of Information

House Appropriations Committee *House Bill 4 (Lewis) Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference*

Matt Power, President
mpower@micua.org
January 30, 2024

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of information on written testimony in support of [House Bill 4 \(Lewis\) Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference](#). This bill would prohibit an institution of higher education from using legacy preference as a criterion for admission standard to the institution.

MICUA appreciates the intent of the legislation to prevent an unqualified applicant with familial relationships from gaining acceptance over a more qualified applicant with no familial connections to the institution. While some MICUA members do consider alumni relationships as part of a holistic application process, no MICUA members utilize legacy preference as a criterion for admission. Students who do not meet admission standards are never granted admission due to legacy or alumni relationships. Even when alumni relationships are considered through a holistic admissions process, no student is denied acceptance because a student with alumni relationships is granted acceptance.

Many MICUA members use their extensive alumni network to recruit and attract prospective students. Frequently alumni continue to have a strong affinity for their alma mater and are extremely successful in recruiting the next generation to apply. This strategy has proved particularly successful for several MICUA members.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.