



# UMBC

## House Appropriations Committee

**Public Higher Education - Communities of Interest - Targeted Recruitment and Outreach Efforts**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

### **Letter of Support**

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 678.

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership. UMBC has over 14,000 students, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, representing Marylanders throughout the state.

House Bill 678 codifies the already existing vision of UMBC and the State – that public Higher Education “should be committed to promoting diversity and inclusion at each institution by attracting and graduating a diverse student body committed to service”. The bill will require Universities to have targeted recruitment and outreach efforts for Communities of Interest, and report on those efforts and related data.

For UMBC, inclusive excellence is a cornerstone of our work, and is showcased in the demographic of our students and graduates. Our demographics include a student body that looks like Maryland, including over 20% African-American, 19% Asian-American, almost 8% Hispanic, and 28% Caucasian. As a Minority Serving Institution (MSI), UMBC is one of the top 50 most ethnically diverse colleges, according to Best College Reviews. Our students bring to UMBC a diverse range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, which serve as the foundation of our culture of inclusive excellence. Unlike most other institutions, UMBC reports no achievement gap among populations of students. We are the nation’s #1 producer of Black undergraduates who go on to complete a Ph.D. in the natural sciences or engineering and #1 for Black undergraduates who complete an M.D./Ph.D.

UMBC is in support of this legislation because it is critical to the core of our mission of inclusive excellence. While we have much to be proud of, more work needs to be done to make certain all Universities are targeted recruitment efforts throughout every corner of this State, with every demographic group. This legislation provides a path to accountability in this crucial issue, and UMBC embraces the opportunity.

We urge a Favorable Report on House Bill 678