



**Support**

**Ways and Means Committee**  
***House Bill 634 (Smith) Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information – United States Census Bureau***

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February 14, 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 testimony in support of [Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information – United States Census Bureau](#). This enabling legislation will provide the Maryland Longitudinal Data System's (MLDS) Governing Board with the authority to participate in the United States Census Bureau's Post Secondary Employment Outcomes project ([PSEO](#)).

The PSEO data provides deidentified earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs, using state-of-the-art confidentiality protection mechanisms to protect the underlying data.

Currently, 27 other States participate on some level in the PSEO. Institutions in those states are able to track their graduates by degree type, and major, to determine their one-, five-, and ten-year earnings after graduation. They can also learn, by major, the industries where their graduates are ultimately employed. Equally important, the PSEO project could allow the MLDS to expand the geographic data they have about Maryland graduates beyond Maryland's borders. The PSEO project allows institutions to see the geography their graduates ultimately reside one, five, and 10 years later.

The value added of the PSEO project to institutions, deans and policy makers is obvious and clear. In addition, it will be tremendously valuable to prospective college students and parents to what kinds of wages graduates of institutions with different degree types ultimately earn as well as the types of industries they are employed.

This enabling legislation will allow Maryland to benefit from this free service provided by the United States Census Bureau. **For these reasons, MICUA strongly encourages your support of HB 634.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, [ialtema@micua.org](mailto:ialtema@micua.org).