

Written Support**House Committee on Ways and Means*****House Bill 343 – Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program*****February 28, 2020****Sara Fidler, President, sfidler@micua.org**

On behalf of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA), please accept this testimony in support of **House Bill 343 – Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program**. The legislation establishes the program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) for the purpose of: (1) facilitating strategic planning and guidance to identify policies and investments needed to advance Maryland's innovation around targeted growth opportunities and place-making efforts; (2) managing the Maryland Technology Infrastructure Fund for investments in projects; and (3) coordinating economic development service delivery. Under the bill, TEDCO must award capital and operating financial assistance to public and private entities in the State, including institutions of higher education.

The bill appoints one of our member institution presidents, the President of the Johns Hopkins University (or designee), to serve as a member of the authority that provides advice to and consultation with TEDCO in administering the program. This is a fitting appointment, as President Ronald J. Daniels was the co-chair of the strategic planning effort that led to the impetus for this legislation. We are excited about the partnership and coalition that this legislation creates in an arena where a collective investment will be the strongest most valuable driver for success!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 343 and we urge a favorable report.