



Maryland Independent College
and University Association

Written Support

House Appropriations Committee

***Senate Bill 538 (Guzzone) Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions
of Higher Education - Funding***

Sara C. Fidler, President
sfidler@micua.org

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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 ***Senate Bill 538 (Guzzone) Community Colleges and Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education - Funding***. Among other things, the bill increases the Joseph A. Sellinger funding formula in fiscal year 2023 from 15.5% to 15.75% and in fiscal year 2024 and thereafter to 16% of the State's general fund per full-time equivalent student appropriation to the selected 4-year public institutions of higher education.

MICUA is appreciative of the increased budget appropriations in the future fiscal years as outlined in the amended version of the legislation passed by the Senate. The MICUA institutions traditionally use between 85%-90% of our Sellinger funds for financial aid for Maryland students. In Fiscal 2020, of the \$59 million that we received: \$51.3 million (87%) was awarded as financial aid for Maryland students; and \$7.7 million (13%) was used to foster student success and nurture innovative strategies in academic research and pedagogy, consistent with the State Plan for Postsecondary Education. It is not enough to get the student through the front door of the institution. Students also need, and our favorable retention and graduation rates support, programs and services throughout the student's academic career. Some of the programs and services that have been made possible through the use of Sellinger funds include:

- improving online content delivery and expanding articulation agreements with Maryland community colleges;
- summer bridge, global education/study abroad, career advising, social justice opportunities, and health counseling services;
- expanding various programmatic opportunities including STEM initiatives, professional development for minorities in engineering and science programs, early childhood special education, and public safety leadership;

- investing in new career planning technologies and creating a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship;
- offering multicultural and diversity training as it relates to the arts, as well as utilizing digital technologies to enhance creative learning opportunities;
- program development for college readiness and career readiness;
- career advising and expanded support services and tutoring;
- specialized programming for non-traditional students;
- expanded programming for educators; and
- improving financial literacy.

MICUA schools are committed to continuing to use our Sellinger funding for financial aid and programs and services that ensure we provide the stellar return on investment to Maryland's workforce, economy, and communities that is expected.

MICUA requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 538.