

**Written Support****Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee*****House Bill 250 (Stewart) Private Well Safety Act of 2022*****Sara C. Fidler, President**[sfidler@micua.org](mailto:sfidler@micua.org)**March 30, 2022**

On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 58,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the third reading version of ***House Bill 250 (Stewart) Private Well Safety Act of 2022***. This bill establishes the Private Well Safety Program in the Department of the Environment to address and manage the contamination of private and domestic water supply wells in the State. The bill also establishes a fund to award grants for costs associated with water quality testing and remediation.

One of the MICUA member institutions, McDaniel College, owns the McDaniel Environmental Center (MEC), and there are three private wells on the site. Over the last several years, McDaniel has made significant investments in establishing and developing the MEC. The College tests the wells annually for contamination. The testing practice has been in place for the last seven years. To date, each well's test results have been within the permitted range. The College incurs expenses to test the wells for contamination; the College also incurs periodic expenses to evaluate the wells, pipes, and pumps. Environmental health and safety are key components of McDaniel's Environmental Studies program. **Therefore, this bill will provide an opportunity for McDaniel College to better serve its students and those who use the water from these wells.**

In addition to its important role in McDaniel's growing Environmental Studies program, all McDaniel students spend time at the MEC as part of their orientation experience. The MEC also plays an important role in the community as a valuable educational resource for public school teachers and their students, as well as for the local community at large.

We appreciate the sponsors' vision for environmental health and safety with the establishment of the Private Well Safety Program in the Department of the Environment. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, [asherma@micua.org](mailto:asherma@micua.org).

***For these reasons, MICUA urges a favorable Committee report for House Bill 250.***