

**SB444\_USM\_FAV.pdf**

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**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senate Bill 444**

**Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - United States Census  
Bureau**

**February 7, 2024**

**Favorable**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 444. The bill authorizes, and the University System of Maryland (USM) supports, the governing board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to have the authority to decide to send student information to the U.S. Census Bureau if it determines that sharing that information is in the best interest of Maryland's citizens and community members.

The University System of Maryland (USM) is comprised of twelve distinguished institutions, and three regional centers. We award eight out of every ten bachelor's degrees in the State. Each of USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes three Historically Black Institutions, comprehensive institutions and research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

The MLDS generates timely and accurate information about student performance and longitudinal progress that can improve the State's education system and guide decision makers at all levels. To accomplish this task, the MLDS collects and organizes individual-level student and workforce data from all levels of education and the State's workforce. MLDS has rigorous protocols for using the data that comes from multiple state agency partners connecting key milestones across education, health and human service.

Currently, the law governing the MLDS Center prohibits MLDS from sending student information beyond Maryland or sharing Maryland student data with external entities. The purpose of this restriction is to protect the privacy of Maryland student data. The MLDS Center also has a rigorous process for considering, evaluating, and approving research requests that come to the Center from individual researchers or research groups.

Senate Bill 444 would revise state law allowing the MLDS Governing Board more flexibility to authorize the Center to send student information outside of Maryland, but it will only restrict this to the US Census Bureau. USM approves of the revision understanding the depth to which the MLDS Governing Board takes its responsibility to protect personal information when evaluating which student data is sent to the US Census Bureau.

Again, the USM urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 444.



# **SB 444 Support Testimony.pdf**

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**Support**

**Energy, Education and the Environment Committee**  
***Senate Bill 444 (Zucker) Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information – United States Census Bureau***

Matt Power, President  
[mpower@micua.org](mailto:mpower@micua.org)  
February 7, 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 SB 444.**

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).

**SB444\_Zucker\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Craig Zucker

Position: FAV

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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 444 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information -**  
**United States Census Bureau**  
**Education, Energy and the Environment Committee**  
**February 7, 2024**  
**2:00pm**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 444 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - United States Census Bureau.**

This bill would authorize the governing board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to send student information to the U.S. Census Bureau, granting MLDS the opportunity to participate in the Census Bureau's Post Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) project.

The PSEO project is a free service that offers comprehensive information on earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates, categorized by degree level, major, and 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 states have taken advantage of the free service to varying degrees within higher education. In Maryland, MLDS is unable to participate as current statute allows MLDS to only share the data with the Comptroller's office. Senate Bill 444 would allow the MLDS Governing Board to decide whether to participate in the PSEO project but does not mandate them to do so.

This bill is supported by the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges and the Maryland Independent College and University Association.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 444. Thank you for your kind consideration.