

CRAIG J. ZUCKER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 122
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3625 · 301-858-3625
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625
Fax 410-841-3618 · 301-858-3618
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 444/ House Bill 634 – Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - United States Census Bureau
Ways & Means Committee
March 20th, 2024
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, 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.**

Senate Bill 444 is in the same posture as the cross-file, House Bill 634, which passed this committee and the House of Delegates. 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.