



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

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Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment
Maryland Senate
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Chairman Feldman,

As Director of Policy Analytics and the Virginia Longitudinal Data System Lead, and as a long-time admirer of the work done by my colleagues at the Maryland Longitudinal Data System, I write in support of SB 56.

For the last twenty years, the development and evolution of state longitudinal data systems have produced data-driven results to guide policy decisions within their state. They have, however, been hampered by the fact that they are limited to the individual state in which they are developed and granted authority to operate. Unfortunately, not all the questions asked by policymakers stop at the border of their states. Questions such as:

“How do our college graduates perform in the workplace? What are their earnings over time?”

“What do we know about the number of individuals who live in Virginia and work in DC or Maryland?”

“We know some of our high school students transfer to other states, are they well-prepared if they do?”

Virginia’s experience with the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes project hosted by the US Census Bureau through the division of Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics has been invaluable in adding additional information to the reporting we have done on program-level wage and debt outcomes of graduates from our public and private institutions in the Commonwealth. Likewise, our partnership in the expanded Multi-State Post-Secondary Report with Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Virginia has not only reaped benefits in new insights of college graduate outcomes but has also expanded staff knowledge and skills from working with multiple states to create datasets matching in content and individual identities (where such matches exist).

Finally, the potential benefits of Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia, being able to work together towards a shared understanding of the permeability of our borders and the number of citizens we “share” is likely far greater than we realize.

I hope the Committee sees the value in passing this bill to the full Senate with it ultimately being signed into law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Massa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tod R Massa
Policy Analytics Director and VLDS Lead
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia