



Maryland Independent College
and University Association

Written Support

House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees

HB 1415 – Education – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 64,000 students they serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of ***HB 1415 – Education – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education***. This legislation would fund several priorities that have been identified by the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, including an outreach campaign to encourage the top 25% of Maryland high school graduates to consider teaching; the establishment of the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative; the establishment of Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) for afterschool programming; funding for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship program; and Career and Technology Education (CTE) Innovation Grants to fund innovative CTE partnership programs between local school systems, community colleges, and industry partners.

MICUA has been following the work of the Commission with great interest over the past year and a half, especially recommendations related to PreK-12 teacher preparation. In seeking to enhance the visibility and status of the teaching profession, it is important to provide early and frequent exposure to teaching as a potential career path—HB 1415 provides two specific supports to accomplish this. First, the teaching outreach program and marketing campaign will reach high achieving high school students statewide as these students are making critical educational and career decisions, providing positive exposure to teaching and practical information regarding paths to teacher certification. Second, the Teaching Fellows for Maryland scholarship program will provide financial support to college students who make the commitment to pursue teaching and will help expand the size and diversity of the pipeline of Maryland-prepared teachers who teach in Maryland public schools following graduation.

Eleven of MICUA's 13 member institutions offer State-approved teacher preparation programs. These programs include undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, certificates, and alternative preparation pathways for career changers. Last year, MICUA member colleges and universities collectively produced 27% of all new Maryland-prepared teacher candidates. Over the past eight years, MICUA-trained educators have won local, state, and national awards, including 66

Maryland County Teachers of the Year; six Maryland State Teachers of the Year; four Finalists for National Teachers of the Year; and two National Teachers of the Year. HB 1415 will support the efforts of MICUA institutions to recruit and retain strong teacher candidates who are leaders in the profession and who make a positive difference in the lives of Maryland students.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 1415.