

Maryland Independent College  
and University Association

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## TESTIMONY

### House Appropriations Committee

#### *HB 368 – Institutions of Higher Education – Hazing – Required Reporting and Education*

MEMBERS

**Tina Bjarekull, President**

Capitol Technology University

February 6, 2018

Goucher College

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter regarding House Bill 368. This bill would require each institution of higher education to adopt and submit to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) a written policy on hazing on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and report on the number of hazing incidents reported at the institution in the prior academic year. In addition, the bill would require each institution to provide students with an educational program on the institution's policy on hazing and additional information related to hazing awareness and hazing prevention.

Hood College

Johns Hopkins University

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

MICUA and its members appreciate the intent and the spirit embodied in HB 368 and take the issue of hazing extremely seriously. Member institutions have policies in place to raise awareness on hazing and eliminate hazing from the campus environment. Every institution prohibits hazing and disciplinary measures related to hazing in its student code of conduct.

Mount St. Mary's University

Notre Dame of Maryland University

St. John's College

While every MICUA member institution has policies to prevent and eliminate hazing, every college campus has a somewhat different climate, and each institution has approached the awareness and prevention of hazing in ways that are most effective for their respective campus environments. For instance, some campuses have Greek organizations and focus resources on prevention and awareness for those students. Other institutions do not have Greek organizations and have a mix of commuter and resident students. Those campuses tend to focus their hazing prevention and awareness policies and resources to the students living on campus. Similarly, institutions without Greek life but with major athletic teams tend to focus their hazing and awareness efforts on student athletes. All MICUA institutions put a greater emphasis on hazing prevention and awareness at the undergraduate level as opposed to the graduate level.

Stevenson University

Washington Adventist University

Washington College

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College

St. Mary's Seminary & University

MICUA would respectfully request that the Committee recognize that every campus is different, and that the vast majority of hazing incidents have

traditionally involved undergraduate residential students who are involved in Greek life and/or athletic teams. As such, MICUA asks the Committee to allow some flexibility in the implementation of the hazing awareness and prevention components of the bill so that resources can be deployed where they are most necessary and where they will have the greatest impact on each campus. For instance, the awareness and prevention components could be targeted to apply to undergraduate students who are living on a residential campus, while the anti-hazing policies would continue to apply to every student.

MICUA and its members support the General Assembly's interest in eliminating hazing on campus and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful concern on the issues raised in our testimony.