

## TESTIMONY

### House Health and Government Operations Committee

#### *House Bill 1492 – Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in Maryland*

**Jennifer Frank, Vice President for Academic Affairs**

MEMBERS

**March 9, 2016**

Capitol Technology University

Goucher College

Hood College

Johns Hopkins University

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

Mount St. Mary's University

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St. John's College

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Washington Adventist University

Washington College

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College

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Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 1492—Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in Maryland. This bill provides an important opportunity for the State to conduct a systematic analysis of nursing shortages in Maryland, to study changing needs in the profession, and to strengthen the State's capacity to meet these demands.

Five of MICUA's 13 member campuses offer nursing programs: Hood College, Johns Hopkins University, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Stevenson University, and Washington Adventist University. Currently, these five institutions award 47% of all nursing degrees in the State at the bachelor's level and above. Four of these institutions have been awarded Nurse Support Program (NSP) II grants from the State, which focus on expanding the capacity of nursing education programs at Maryland colleges and universities.

Collectively, MICUA institutions address multiple points in the nursing education pipeline—from doctoral-level programs that prepare future nursing faculty and researchers; to master-level programs that prepare nurse practitioners, specialists, and administrators; to bachelor-level programs that prepare registered nurses. MICUA institutions have been responsive to educational developments in the nursing profession, such as the Institute of Medicine's *Future of Nursing* report, calling for 80% of the nation's registered nurses to hold a bachelor's degree by 2020. These initiatives include the development of RN-to-BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) programs that serve associate's degree holders who are nurses in Maryland, and the creation of articulation agreements with nursing programs at Maryland community colleges.

Despite the availability of nationally-ranked nursing programs, innovative recruitment and retention efforts, and accessible educational options in Maryland, nursing shortages still persist. Among the challenges facing Maryland's nursing programs are shortages in qualified nursing faculty and

limited practicum placements for nursing students in hospitals and other clinical settings. HB 1492 will position the State to examine these issues—and others—collaboratively and systematically.

MICUA looks forward to identifying representatives from our member institutions to serve on this Task Force, along with members of the General Assembly, nursing professionals, and colleagues from the public two-year and four-year higher education segments. We also support amendments to this bill providing the University System of Maryland and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges with one additional Task Force member each. Given our major investment and commitment to preparing and graduating nurses in Maryland, we look forward to reviewing the findings and recommendations from the Task Force, and continuing our efforts to expand educational opportunities and support for the State's nursing workforce.

***With these limited amendments, MICUA urges a favorable report for HB 1492.***