



Maryland Independent College and University Association

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TESTIMONY

Appropriations Committee

HB 283 – Institutions of Higher Education – Official Transcripts

Tina Bjarekull, President

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MEMBERS

Madame Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Gaines, and members of the Committee:

Capitol Technology University

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony urging an unfavorable report for House Bill 283. This legislation would drive up college costs by creating inefficiencies in the delivery of official college transcripts.

Goucher College

Hood College

Johns Hopkins University

MICUA institutions have developed business processes that are appropriate for their campuses and for their students. Some members process transcripts in-house, other members outsource the process to private vendors, and some members have hybrid models that employ both in-house services as well as outside vendors. These processes have been designed to increase efficiencies and allow students better customer service. As noted in the DLS fiscal note, HB 283 would force institutions that use outside vendors or hybrid models to hire campus staff to perform these functions or develop costly systems to reimburse students or outside vendors.

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

Mount St. Mary's University

Notre Dame of Maryland University

St. John's College

The residency requirements in the bill are particularly troublesome. Registrars are not in a position to determine residency status of students and alum. There is no reasonable and inexpensive way for registrars to make residency determinations.

Stevenson University

Washington Adventist University

The bill requires institutions to provide free transcripts to students and alumnus at various intervals. None of the registrars at the MICUA institutions currently track how frequently a student or alumna receives a transcript. Creating these tracking systems would require institutions to pay for extensive computer programming or to establish tedious and inefficient manual processes. The costs of these systems would be a poor use of limited resources.

Washington College

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College

Most MICUA member institutions provide free unofficial transcripts to students and alums and offer official transcripts at extremely reasonable fees, generally in the three to ten dollar range. The institutions assess

St. Mary's Seminary & University

these fees to partially recoup the costs of providing official transcripts or to create efficiencies by contracting with outside vendors.

MICUA believes HB 283 would drive up institutional costs for very little benefit. For these reasons, MICUA urges an unfavorable committee report on HB 283.