

Maryland Independent College
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TESTIMONY

Economic Matters Committee

HB 749– Alcoholic Beverages – Sale of Powdered Alcohol - Prohibition

Tina Bjarekull, President

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of Maryland's fifteen independent colleges and universities in support of House Bill 749, prohibiting a person from selling or offering for sale alcoholic beverages in powder or crystalline form to be used directly or in combination with water or any other substance.

Powdered and crystalline alcohol may be mixed incorrectly, combined with other alcoholic drinks, used to spike nonalcoholic drinks, and ingested in its powdered form. It is easily portable and concealable. These characteristics make powdered and crystalline alcohol attractive to young adults and substantially increase the risks for abuse and underage drinking.

MICUA believes powdered and crystalline alcohol creates a serious public health risk and should be permanently banned in the State of Maryland.

According to the National Conference of State Legislators, 27 states had adopted statutes prohibiting the sale of powdered alcohol as of November 2015. Other states are considering similar legislation.

Due to compelling concerns about the abuse, misuse, and dangers of powdered and crystalline alcohol, MICUA urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report for House Bill 749 permanently banning the sale of powdered or crystalline alcohol.