

**Support with Amendments****Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee*****SB 479 – High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018***

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February 14, 2018

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 64,000 students they serve, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of ***Senate Bill 479 – High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018***. This bill requires county boards of education to award credit toward high school graduation requirements for college courses that have been determined to meet such requirements and establishes a process for colleges and universities to certify courses that meet specific high school graduation requirements.

MICUA appreciates the Maryland General Assembly's strong commitment to supporting and expanding early college and dual enrollment opportunities in the State, including the passage of the *College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013*. Since 2013, the State has experienced significant growth in the number of dually enrolled students each year. Several MICUA member institutions provide dual enrollment opportunities for Maryland high school students, many at a reduced tuition rate. In addition, some MICUA institutions grant college credit for rigorous coursework taught in Maryland high schools through career pathways programs such as Project Lead the Way and the Teacher Academy of Maryland.

Dual enrollment has been shown to have many positive outcomes for high school students. These opportunities increase students' likelihood of applying to and attending college. They help reduce the need for developmental coursework. They reduce college costs by allowing students to graduate more quickly. They also provide access to advanced classes in subject areas that may not be offered in high school, including specialized coursework in the sciences and foreign languages. Multiple dual enrollment models—including early/middle colleges, summer programs, on-campus college courses, and college courses taught in high schools—provide multiple access points for high school students across the State.

We appreciate the sponsor working with MICUA to offer amendments to clarify the process by which the Maryland State Department of Education may certify college courses to meet high school graduation requirements. We believe that this bill will raise the visibility of dual enrollment opportunities statewide and will support Maryland colleges and universities that seek to expand their dual enrollment course offerings.

For all of these reasons, we support SB 479 and urge a favorable Committee report.