

Maryland Independent College  
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## TESTIMONY

### Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

#### *SB 129 – Baltimore County –Polling Places on Campuses*

**Tina Bjarekull, President**

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter regarding Senate Bill 129. This bill would establish a polling place at each senior institution of higher education in Baltimore County that has residential student housing on its campus. Specifically, SB 129 would require a polling place on the campuses of two MICUA members, Goucher College and Stevenson University.

MICUA member institutions support and encourage civic activity on campuses and launch "Get Out The Vote" efforts for every election. Active civic participation is critical to our democracy. MICUA supports the intent behind this legislation and both Goucher and Stevenson are prepared to work collaboratively with the Baltimore County Board of Elections on a polling place similar to the existing polling place at Towson University, which is designed to serve the campus community.

MICUA is confident that Goucher and Stevenson can identify an appropriate location to establish a polling place for students, faculty, and staff. However, if the polling place was designed for the general population, MICUA would have concerns related to parking, security, and the practicality of numerous voters of all ages coming onto campus.

Voting is the cornerstone of a strong democracy and there is a strong educational and civic component to the process that all MICUA members support. MICUA thanks the sponsor and the committee for considering the opinion of MICUA members as this legislation is debated.