Written Support

House Appropriations Committee
House Bill 24 (Luedtke) Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and
Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 58,000
students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to
support *House Bill 24 (Luedtke) Cybersecurity Scholarship Program –*
Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program –
Establishment. This bill makes changes to the Cybersecurity Public Service
Scholarship Program. The bill increases the number of years a full-time student
recipient may hold an award, expands the qualifying positions for a scholarship
recipient to fulfill a work obligation, and establishes criteria for part–time students
to be eligible for the scholarship. The bill also establishes a Loan Assistance
Repayment Program for individuals employed in the cybersecurity field in
specified organizations after having received a degree, registered apprenticeship, or
certification in cybersecurity, and if the individual is not currently serving a work
obligation under the scholarship.

Programs such as the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program help the State recruit,
develop, and retain top talent in cybersecurity fields. According to the most recent
data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the outlook for the job growth rate for
security analysts is 33% through 2030 in the US. Expanding scholarship eligibility
to part-time students pursuing degrees and certificates in cybersecurity opens a
pathway for more students pursuing post-baccalaureate studies to participate in the
program.

Several MICUA institutions offer programs in cybersecurity, including bachelors of science, post-baccalaureate certificates, master's degrees, post-master's certificates, and doctoral degrees. The MICUA programs include Cybersecurity, Cyber Analytics, and Cyberpsychology. Capitol Technology University received the prestigious SC Media 2020 Award for Best Cybersecurity Higher Education Program in America. During the period of 2016-2020, MICUA institutions awarded over 600 degrees in cybersecurity. Our institutions have an 82% undergraduate retention rate, and 87% of first-time full-time freshman who first enroll at a MICUA institution graduate from that same MICUA institution, or a transfer institution within six years.

We appreciate Delegate Luedtke's vision and the General Assembly's ongoing support for the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program. MICUA students have benefited and will continue to benefit from these investments, as they graduate from our institutions and join the State's talent pipeline in cybersecurity and other STEM fields.

For these reasons, MICUA urges a favorable Committee report for House Bill 24.