

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
***Senate Bill 706 (Zucker) Nonpublic Educational Programs – Children With Disabilities –  
Costs of Teacher Salaries***

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 58,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of the third reading version of [Senate Bill 706 Nonpublic Educational Programs – Children With Disabilities – Costs of Teacher Salaries](#). This bill requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 an appropriation of \$4 million to support the operations of the nonpublic educational programs throughout the State with a priority given to faculty salaries. This bill also requires the State Department of Education to submit a report by October 15, 2023, on salary comparison of a public school teacher of similar training and experience to teachers at a nonpublic educational program in the same county.

Ten of MICUA's thirteen State-aided institutions have Maryland State Department of Education accredited teacher preparation programs. Some graduates of MICUA schools teach children with disabilities in nonpublic education programs. In 2020, MICUA schools awarded 2,025 education degrees, which represents 50% of the education degrees awarded in Maryland.

Teachers in nonpublic education programs deserve to be compensated fairly and equitably for their work with children with disabilities. This is critical for attracting and retaining qualified teachers for children with disabilities. For 2020-2021, the US Department of Education (DE) reports special education (all exceptionalities) preK-12 teacher shortages in Maryland. Nationally, there is an 8% shortage of special education teachers according to the DE Office of Special Education Programs.

We appreciate the effort that the sponsors have made to achieve pay equity for teachers. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, [asherma@micua.org](mailto:asherma@micua.org).

***For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 706.***