

Support with Amendments**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee*****Senate Bill 446: Institutions of Postsecondary Education – Disorderly School Closures*****Jennifer V. Frank, Ph.D., Vice President**jfrank@micua.org**February 12, 2020**

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 65,600 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for ***Senate Bill 446: Institutions of Postsecondary Education – Disorderly School Closures***. This bill requires postsecondary institutions and private career schools to meet certain requirements regarding school and program closures, including close-out plans, teach-out agreements, and the transfer of financial and academic records. The bill establishes additional protections and remedies for students who are affected by the disorderly closure of an institution or program.

MICUA appreciates the General Assembly's past and current efforts to protect students who are pursuing postsecondary education in Maryland. We certainly understand the concerns with disorderly closures and the devastating impact they have on the financial and educational aspirations of students. Unfortunately, disorderly school closures seem to have become more common in recent years, leaving students saddled with debt and limited options.

MICUA member institutions are required to follow teach-out plans and closure processes as established and required by our regional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. We have met with the bill sponsor to share our current processes and to discuss concerns related to program-level discontinuations and the transfer of student records in the specific case of institutional mergers. We will be suggesting amendments that address these issues. Again, we appreciate the intent of Senate Bill 446 and the protections it affords to Maryland students.