

140 South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Written Support**

## House Appropriations Committee

### *HB 546 Education – Service Year Option Program – Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)*

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the 56,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of [HB 546 Education – Service Year Option Program – Establishment \(Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023\)](#).

MICUA strongly supports the creation of a Department of Service and Civic Innovation. A cornerstone of a liberal arts education is the belief that every individual has an inherent commitment to service and participation in civic life. We commend the Administration for creating this important new department in State Government.

MICUA sees numerous ways that its institutions can partner with the Department of Service and Civic Innovation both as an employer of service year participants, as well as offering service year participants opportunities to pursue a postsecondary education after their service year is complete. Many MICUA members have offices that focus on community service and providing students with opportunities to operationalize what they learn in the classroom into real world experience working in their community. Our institutions offer many courses with service learning embedded in the curriculum, giving students an opportunity to reflect on the service experience and how the course learning outcomes were achieved.

MICUA commends the Moore Administration for creating such an important Department and more importantly, opportunities for young Marylanders to both enhance themselves and their communities through civic service. All of our institutions look forward to partnering with the Administration on this endeavor and working together on innovative and creative partnerships that benefit Maryland's students and communities.

***For these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 546.***



AFFILIATES

