



Opposition

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 547 – (Charles)- Recipients of State and Local Government
– Reporting (Buy Maryland Reporting Requirements)

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On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the more than 56,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support with amendments regarding [*Senate Bill 547 – \(Charles\)- Recipients of State and Local Government - Reporting \(Buy Maryland Reporting Requirements\)*](#). MICUA respectfully opposes SB 547 because it is unnecessary, duplicative, and will impose new administrative costs on the very institutions Maryland relies upon to expand access to higher education without additional state investment.

MICUA institutions already submit detailed financial, operational, and procurement data to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Governor's Office, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), and the General Assembly. Our institutions also participate in numerous Buy Local programs including HopkinsLocal and the Baltimore Integration Partnership.

These reports already capture vendor identities, contract values, MBE participation, employment levels, and in-state/out-of-state spending—precisely the information SB 547 would duplicate. Requiring a second, parallel submission to the Comptroller by October 15 (two months after the close of the fiscal year and in the middle of fall semester operations) will divert limited institutional resources away from students and instruction without yielding any new actionable data or value added for policymakers.

If the Committee nonetheless moves the bill, MICUA respectfully requests that SB 547 be amended to exempt private, nonprofit institutions of higher education. Exempting them will reduce redundant paperwork while preserving the bill's stated purpose of tracking direct governmental expenditures and providing oversight.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to provide any additional information the Committee may need.