



Letter of Information

House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees *Senate Bill 435 (Waldstreicher) Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools – Title VI Coordinators*

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of information to [*Senate Bill 435 \(Waldstreicher\) Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools – Title VI Coordinators*](#).

SB 435 would require “each institution of higher education to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964”. The legislation has enumerated the tasks and responsibilities of a Title VI Coordinator, such as promoting equal access and participation in programs and activities, providing training and educational resources, documenting and investigating complaints, and maintaining records and reports.

MICUA institutions support the practice of promoting equity, fairness, access, and inclusivity on the campuses and are compliant with Title VI. Our campuses offer a myriad of diverse training and resources for many protections, including Title IX. However, schools will bear a substantial increase in costs to employ a designated Title VI Coordinator. Passage of SB 435 would impose on MICUA institutions an expectation to allocate funding in their overly committed budgets to invest in training, consultation, and policy drafting. Currently, MICUA institutions do not have the budget resources or strategic planning for the addition of a position dedicated to Title VI. Several considerations and costs are associated with this new role requirement for institutions of higher education that go beyond designating a Title VI Coordinator.

Between fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the Sellinger program received a 48% reduction in funding. These reductions have had negative repercussions at all the MICUA institutions. Due to changes in the funding formula, the reduction was not spread equitably across all our institutions. Some institutions suffered much more significant reductions, resulting in a loss of enrollment and services provided. The likely minimum salary and benefits of a designated Title VI Coordinator is anticipated to be \$100,000 and a small-scale institution with a reduced budget would encounter challenges to commit funding to hire an individual for the role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information on behalf of our institutions regarding Senate Bill 435. If you have any questions, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.