

Written Support

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

Matt Power, President

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On behalf of Maryland’s independent colleges and universities and the 56,000 students we serve, we thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support with amendments regarding **Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**. We support the Moore Administration to establish the Build Our Future Grant (BOFG) Pilot Program and Fund, of up to \$2.0 million, in the Department of Commerce to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects to nonprofits, colleges and universities, etc., to cover certain costs associated with the project. Under the Program, college and university grant recipients would be required to partner with a private company or offer significant economic impact and the opportunity for entrepreneurship or technological innovation clusters in the State.

MICUA member institutions collaborate with many private entities in their campus community or other statewide private industries. Several MICUA schools are the central hub for their city or town. They thus have formed partnerships with businesses that expand the student experience, foster an environment to encourage creativity and innovation, and create opportunities for entrepreneurship in the local community. SB 549 would provide additional funds to build on the existing relationships at MICUA institutions and spur economic vitality for the State while providing a very engaging student learning experience.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the contents contained within this letter, please contact Irnande Altema (ialtema@micua.org), Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs.

For these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 549.



AFFILIATES

