



**Support**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

***Senate Bill 56 (Feldman)***

***Maryland Longitudinal Data System – External Data Sharing With Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting - Authorization***

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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 regarding **[Senate Bill 56 \(Feldman\)](#)** **[Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - External Data Sharing With Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting - Authorization](#)**.

The Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) has a long-standing commitment to data-driven decision making and has been an active partner in the development and implementation of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS). As a member of the MLDS Center's Governing Board, MICUA has witnessed firsthand the exemplary work and research produced by the Center, which has established itself as the premier longitudinal data system in the country.

The MLDS Center's work provides critical insights and data analysis to inform education policy and improve student outcomes. Senate Bill 56 will enable the existing and professional Governing Board to share data in appropriate circumstances with reputable parties, allowing the MLDS to be nimbler and more responsive to emerging research needs and opportunities. By authorizing the Center to partner with third-party data centers, the bill will further enhance the MLDS's research, dashboards, and reporting capabilities, ultimately benefiting students, educators, and policymakers across the State.

MICUA strongly supports Senate Bill 56 and believes that it will help to advance the State's education goals and improve student outcomes. We urge the Committee to favorably consider this legislation and look forward to continuing our partnership with the MLDS Center to promote data-driven decision making and excellence in education.