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President

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PRESIDENT

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Dear Chairman Guzzone and Chairman Barnes,

I am writing to support increased funding for the Sellinger program and the Maryland Independent College and University Association's (MICUA) request to reverse the damage to this program in the FY25 proposed budget. Goucher College fully supports MICUA's request to:

1. Preserve the legislative integrity of the Sellinger formula, reject the language in the BRFA and restore the formula to its original methodology.
2. Include a new provision in the BRFA that ensures no single MICUA institution can receive more than 35% of the Sellinger formula allocation in one fiscal year.

The strength of Maryland's higher education system is built on the Sellinger and Cade formulas. As a result of these formulas, Maryland has an ecosystem of collaboration amongst the segments of higher education. No individual sector of higher education can possibly meet all the demands of our economy and the needs of Maryland students, which is why, for 50 years the General Assembly has sought to provide to the independent sector a small percentage of the per student funding provided to USM institutions.

Reducing the funding of the Sellinger program by nearly half is a disservice to Maryland's students. 89% of all Sellinger funds are dedicated to financial aid for Maryland students at nearly all MICUA institutions; at Goucher 99% of the funding is awarded to low-income Maryland undergrads.

MICUA members avoided closures during the pandemic only because of the relief that the federal government provided. However, we are still feeling the impact of those financial losses and the enrollment declines we suffered in 2020 and 2021. When those effects are combined with the inability of our students to know what their financial aid award package will be due to the delayed rollout of the new simplified FAFSA by the U.S. Department of Education, Sellinger funding becomes that much more important.

Please encourage your committee members to reject the language in the BRFA and adopt the MICUA compromise proposal, which still results in a \$26 million cut to the program and a nearly 20% reduction from this year's funding.

Sincerely,

Kent Devereaux