



February 26, 2020

The Honorable Paul Pinsky and Honorable Cheryl Kagan
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 895 Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP)
Expansion

Stance: Support

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) helps Maryland retain top talent by increasing the number of paid technical internships offered by employers in the state. MTIP officially launched in August 2018 and offers financial assistance to technology-based businesses, as well as state and local agencies, to hire more interns. Administered by UMBC and funded by the State of Maryland, the program aims to educate and encourage Maryland students to stay in the state of Maryland post-graduation and increase the awareness of technical employment opportunities in Maryland.

To date, MTIP has funded 348 internships, within 243 unique organizations representing a wide range of tech industries like cyber security, advanced manufacturing, bio-tech and artificial intelligence to name a few. MTIP has supported 24 interns across state and local agencies representing 6% of all MTIP interns. This is a great start, however, we can and need to increase this number to recruit our next generation of technology talent in public service. I am writing today to offer my support for SB895.

This expansion is important to state agencies as they face several recruiting challenges. Many state agencies lack the recruiting infrastructure needed to support campus hiring and budget to match salaries offered by private companies. Their industry competitors have robust recruiting budgets and presence on campuses which puts state agencies at a disadvantage.

This MTIP expansion will fully fund technical interns at state agencies and will support them at a competitive rate. UMBC will be able to assist with on-campus recruiting efforts as well as administer payroll. We plan to include the following program elements to support agencies in this expansion:

- Cover 100% of the interns stipends to reduce burden on state agencies
- Host and plan a recruiting event for state agencies to hire interns
- Create and hold orientation sessions in partnership with agency representatives
- Host and plan a closing ceremony where interns will have a chance to network and can share their projects with other state agencies

This expansion lifts the recruiting barriers for agencies and allows a true pathway to hire and retain technical talent for the state of Maryland. Please support SB895.

Sincerely,

Annie Weinschenk
Assistant Director
Maryland Technology Internship Program