

MARYLAND WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

SB794

Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education Schools

Position: FAVORABLE

Mr. Chair Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee:

My name is Brig Dumais and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Workforce Alliance, a statewide, multi-industry coalition of 36 trade associations, labor unions, and apprenticeship providers united to build a world-class workforce in Maryland through common sense workforce development legislation. The Alliance works for the creation of jobs in markets experiencing labor shortages by advocating for robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) in public schools, certificate programs in community colleges, and youth & registered apprenticeship programs.

We encourage a favorable report on SB794 Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education Schools. This legislation will make it easier for students in select counties on the Eastern Shore to participate

in CTE programs in their field of choice. Kent¹, Caroline², and Queen Anne's³ counties are already exceeding the State goal of 45% of students completing CTE programs, and Dorchester⁴ county has almost reached the 45% goal.

These figures show that the Eastern Shore is already a leader in CTE. HB794 will allow them to continue growing their CTE participation rates, and to expand the potential classes students want to take, without restricting them to a specific school district. We hope the Eastern Shore will continue to set an example for the rest of Maryland about the value of strong CTE programs-- both to students and to the economy. HB794 will help further lead by example and hopefully begin a CTE ripple effect through Maryland.

The Maryland Workforce Alliance respectfully urges the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB794. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brigette Dumais
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¹ 66.2% CTE Completion

² 47.3% CTE Completion

³ 47.2% CTE Completion

⁴ 44.2% CTE Completion