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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 926, sponsored by Senator Obie Patterson, and to address specifically the amendment added in the Senate creating the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission. The Commission is conceived as a “mini-Kirwan Commission” that will design a long range plan to scale up apprenticeships across the Maryland economy to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations (such as health care, IT, public services, and more) and provide career paths for the two thirds of Maryland young people who earn no college degree by age twenty five.

To meet these needs and reach the Kirwan plan goal that by 2031, 45% of high school graduates will have completed the High School Level of a Registered Apprenticeship, we need to scale up apprenticeships from 11,000 in 2021 to around 80,000 by 2030 (a penetration rate similar to the UK, Australia, and Canada).

The budget agreement announced Friday by Governor, the House Speaker, and the Senate President includes \$25,000,000 to launch the Commission designs.

I urge the committee to adopt SB 926 with the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission amendment, and I thank Senator Patterson for his leadership and collaboration on this important initiative. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim".

Senator Jim Rosapepe