

Testimony
of
William C. Taylor
Before the
Maryland General Assembly
Finance Committee
Senate Bill 926
Public Hearing
on the
Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship and
Training Council - Representation
March 16, 2022

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and members of the Finance Committee. My name is William C. Taylor of Fort Washington, Maryland. I am the past Chair of the Maryland State Apprenticeship Council, where I served for 14 years.

My purpose here today is in support of Senate Bill 926 that will include representatives by black, Latinos, females, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, Consultants to the Council shall include representation by black, Latinos, female, and individuals with disabilities. This will help ensure the Maryland Apprenticeship Council has diversity in gender and race in its sponsored programs.

We have developed a deep and abiding commitment to ensure there is balanced representation in employment opportunities. I am an advocate for opportunities that will support diversity in the workplace and allow all individuals to become productive and contributing members of our community.

I applaud the enhanced focus on Senate Bill 926 to include diversity on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council. The Council should look like the people it serves and needs representation of all eligible workers. Additionally, a more diverse Council will help with recruiting and increase the diversity of

apprentices. I understand there is a shortage of skilled workers in a number of the trade professions.

A number of our communities have untrained workers who could fill those vacancies with the help of an apprenticeship. A more diverse Apprenticeship Council will help fill the needs of employers and unemployed workforce. The addition of females, Blacks, Latinos, the disabled, and other minorities on the Council will only improve workforce development and working conditions within the State.

I respectfully ask that you take the necessary action to ensure that this bill passes.

We cannot afford to lose sight of diversity at this critical juncture. I ask you to take the necessary action to ensure that the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council include representation of Black, Latinos, females, and persons with disabilities, also Consultants to the Council shall include representation by Black, Latinos, females, and individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.