

SB 551.Service Year Option Program HOUSE.pdf

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Position: FAV

BILL: Senate Bill 551
TITLE: Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program
Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through
Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)
DATE: March 29, 2023
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 551 which would establish a new state agency and program devoted to increasing the participation of Maryland's young adults in rewarding jobs in the fields of education, environment, and health. MABE supports the creation of this new program in order to bolster the framework of college and career readiness envisioned by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and further benefit the futures of our talented youth.

This legislation would establish the Service Year Option Program primarily as a supportive gateway to rewarding careers for recent high school graduates. The program is designed as an additional option to pursuing career and technical training or postsecondary education, which are supported by programs funded through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. MABE agrees that there is great value in promoting the value of careers in public impact employment, particularly considering the needs to recruit youth into educational and job training programs leading to employment in our public school systems. Local boards recognize the merits of providing participants in the program with not only job training but also mentoring and other supports while beginning to work and throughout the program year.

Senate Bill 551 articulates the key facets of the Service Year Option Program, including the responsibilities of the new Department of Service and Civic Innovation to administer the program. Again, MABE greatly appreciates that the bill directs the new Department of Civic and Service Innovation to develop focus areas to address priority issues, including education, environment, and health.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 551.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0551.pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Greenberg

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
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Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 551**

TITLE: Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps
Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving
Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)

SPONSOR: The President (By Request – Administration)

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 29, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 551 – Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023). This legislation would reestablish the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to include oversight of the Office on Service and Volunteerism and the Maryland Corps.

The COVID pandemic highlighted the need for critical investments to be made to cultivate a strong and efficient public service field. States and local jurisdictions across the country are suffering from a dwindling pool of applicants who are trained for critical high-impact service placements. Enhanced workforce development tools that provide targeted, specialized training as alternatives to postsecondary education are vital for strengthening the pipeline of talent into State and Local government positions.

SB 551 provides the State and local governments a strong tool to develop a trained, professional workforce. This bill would require the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to oversee the Maryland Corps Program, the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway, and the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway and Fund.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 551. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

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Uploaded by: Maddie Long

Position: FAV



**Testimony in support of
Senate Bill 551: Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland
Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways – Established (Serving Every
Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)**

**House Appropriations Committee
Position: Favorable**

March 30, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We advocate for legislative and regulatory policy changes to further educational equity and build the technical capacity of everyday Marylanders to hold state and local officials accountable to their responsibilities. **We stand in support of Senate Bill 551.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state's students. Now that the Blueprint is law, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to implement a framework that sets students up for success, especially in areas of ensuring college and career readiness and providing a diverse education workforce. This bill, as amended by the Senate, supports the work of the Blueprint through establishing the Department of Service and Civic Innovation in the state of Maryland and altering the existing Maryland Corps program for more service options.

Senate Bill 551:

- Expands opportunities for recent high school graduates and other individuals with similar levels of education beyond college or career and technical training;

- Grants access to professional development, mentoring, networking, and job training opportunities for program participants; and
- Addresses short- and long-term state challenges of recruitment and retention, especially in high-needs areas like education.

We are experiencing severe deficits of employees in the state. The Maryland State Department of Education alone has [196.5 vacant positions](#) with 123 vacancies above the fiscal 2024 budgeted turnover. Further, the Blueprint *created* certain positions to meet the needs of the law. It is crucial to ensure these positions are filled for full and faithful implementation. If not, we will begin to see the severity of consequences of inaction, including our carefully constructed programs being mismanaged, local education agencies functioning without support, and the Blueprint investment itself completely nullified. This bill supports the Blueprint in two key areas: expanded opportunities for students as they depart public school college and career ready; and investment in a pipeline of talent to fill current and future staffing needs in Maryland.

This legislation presents an opportunity to capitalize on service learning models in the State. Service learning programs like Teach for America and AmeriCorps allow graduates to explore public service and serve their communities, while still earning money and developing professionally. [A recent study](#) of an AmeriCorps program in Nevada found significant returns on investment, including: improved outcomes for various stakeholders; increased post-service earnings; increased tax revenue for government; and reduced lifetime spending on corrections, public assistance, and social insurance. Let Maryland lead the country by introducing this proven strategy through a state initiative.

SB 551 supports the Blueprint's vision to set the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. We have promised World-Class schools. Let us provide World-Class service learning options beyond K-12 education to strengthen the future of our state.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 551.

*For more information, contact Maddie Long:
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org*

SB 551 .pdf

Uploaded by: Nicole Stallings

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 29, 2023

To: The Honorable Benjamin Barnes, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Re: Letter of Support As Amended- Senate Bill 551- Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)

Dear Chair Barnes:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 551 as amended.

MHA applauds Governor Moore and Speaker Jones for championing this legislation. Maryland hospitals are at a critical juncture—facing the most significant staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce now and in the future.

As amended, SB 551 creates two pathways: the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway and the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway. This legislation aligns with many of the report's recommendations to expand Maryland's workforce pipeline, including stipends or financial incentives to pursue careers in high demand health care fields. We know our health care workforce is impacted by the same social determinants affecting our patients. Mentoring and wraparound supports are vital for students to focus and achieve their educational goals.

Hospital data show high vacancy rates for licensed practical nurses, respiratory therapists, registered nurses, and surgical technicians. One in five—or 18.9%—of nursing assistant positions are currently vacant.¹ Over the past year, Maryland hospitals worked together to address the high demand for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) by creating an acute care CNA pathway. The CNA workforce can grow the nursing pipeline if proper supports are in place for career advancement and administrative barriers are removed, just like this legislation proposes.

For these reasons we ask for a *favorable* report on SB 551 as amended.

For more information, please contact:

Nicole Stallings, Executive Vice President and Chief External Affairs Officer
Nstallings@mhaonline.org

¹ MHA Workforce Survey – January 2023

SB551.DD Coalition.Support - Approps.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

House Appropriations Committee

March 29, 2023

SB551: Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Establishment

Position: Support



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**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

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21244

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports the Serving Every Region Through Vocation Exploration Act of 2023. With the amendments, it will make sure all students with disabilities, including students with significant support needs, have the option to participate.

People with disabilities will benefit from this Program. It gives youth and young adults with and without disabilities the opportunity to provide services to organizations that support people with disabilities, and also gives youth and young adults with disabilities the opportunity to serve others. It is particularly important to focus on the skills and abilities of youth and young adults with disabilities.

- **Only 50.6% of Marylanders with disabilities participate in the workforce.**

That percentage decreases significantly for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Students who exit high school at age 21 with a Certificate of High School Completion are often students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who transition to long-term services and supports through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). DDA funds services and supports to make sure people live the lives they want. This includes working and having meaningful days when not working. A service year could allow young adults who receive supports from the DDA explore, develop, and demonstrate skills that lead to employment.

We appreciate that the Senate included language to make sure those students are eligible for that opportunity, by making it clear that all students can participate in the Program with the support they need to do so by including people who have obtained a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion on page 19, lines 14-15.

In addition, we appreciate the recognition that all people who participate in the Maryland Corps Program may need workplace accommodations and the requirement that the regulations to be adopted include “reasonable workplace accommodations for Corps participants with disabilities.”

We appreciate the focus on the importance of service and intention to be inclusive of all Marylanders. We wholeheartedly believe the Serving Every Region Through Vocation Exploration Act of 2023 benefits people with developmental disabilities in multiple ways.

Contact:

Rachel London, Executive Director, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council: rlondon@md-council.org

SB 551 LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



Bill: **Senate Bill 551 - Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic well-being of students and families across the state.

We support the establishment of the Service Year Option Program as a path to career readiness for Maryland residents. As school psychologists, we serve many diverse learners who need opportunities to build upon their own strengths in order to thrive in the workforce. Many times, they are limited by a lack of options to engage in vocational training upon graduation from high school. They need additional support that would be provided by the program, including professional development, mentoring, and job training. The Maryland School Psychologists' Association recognizes the need for more opportunities for our diverse learners and other students who may need additional support upon graduation to meet their career goals.

SB 551 would allow for all of Maryland's students to have access to opportunities to expand their career readiness beyond graduation from public schools and build their skills as members of Maryland's workforce. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

If we can provide any further information or be of assistance, please contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org or Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or 410-322-2320.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Committee Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association.

2023 SB551 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



Opposition Statement SB551
Department of Service and Civic Innovation
and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Establishment
(Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

We Oppose SB551

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to SB551. While providing entry into the workforce is a positive in general, we oppose the program being used to recruit program participants into the abortion industry workforce. We oppose any funds for this bill being used to fund the training of participants for the abortion industry. Maryland Right to Life strongly recommends an amendment added with language that would exclude abortion funding and exclude recruitment of participants for the abortion workforce.

In addition to the taxpayer funding of participants for the abortion industry, Maryland Right to Life opposes the further erosion of medical care for the women and girls of Maryland. This program recruits participants with minimal education. Surgical and medical abortions carry a risk of injury up to and including death. Surgical abortions are invasive and the woman or girl risks injuries including a punctured uterus, incomplete abortion, lacerations to the vagina and cervix, sepsis, and death. The risks for a woman or girl taking the abortion pill include hemorrhage, sepsis, incomplete abortion, menstrual abnormalities and death. The women and girls of Maryland deserve the care of trained, licensed physicians. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed the physician requirement for women and girls seeking abortion. This bill further reduces the quality of medical care that women and girls receive in Maryland.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry, especially workers that put the health of women and girls in jeopardy.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on **SB551**.