



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

March 29, 2023

Senate Bill 922: Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund -
Funding - Alteration

Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 922. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 922 increases the mandated appropriation that the Governor is required to include for the Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund in the annual budget bill from \$250,000 to \$625,000 for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

This funding will be huge for the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (MCCEI) and for the construction industry in Maryland. MCCEI develops, promotes, and connects career opportunities in the built environment.

Many industries across the state face the greatest shortage and the most tremendous opportunity in workforce development in a generation. To meet this opportunity and succeed, we must deploy new tools, invest in innovative partnerships, and create new career pathways for those entering their chosen field – whether it be construction, healthcare, transportation, or public service.

Together, we must intentionally consider how on- the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more qualified and licensed professionals across industries. The funding this legislation provides will be integral in growing education and career opportunities.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 922.

Submitted by:

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