

SB922 Support.pdf

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Position: FAV

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore Port Council
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Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the House Appropriations Committee On

SB 922 Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund - Funding - Alteration

Support

March 14, 2023

Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am writing in **support** of **SB 922**. The Maryland Center for Construction Education (MCCEI) and Innovation plays a vital role in educating individuals about the numerous career paths available in the construction industry, as well as providing support to help individuals achieve success in these careers.

In recent years, the construction industry in Maryland has grown significantly, creating numerous job opportunities for individuals looking to build careers in this field. However, there is still a significant skills gap in the industry, and the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation is working hard to address this gap by connecting individuals with the education and training they need to succeed.

By increasing funding for MCCEI, we can help ensure it has the resources it needs to continue and enhance their efforts. This will help to strengthen Maryland's construction industry and ultimately drive economic growth in the state.

I urge you to vote **favorably** on **SB 922**.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24

SB922_MSEA_Gobel_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 922
Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund – Funding –
Alteration**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 15, 2023**

**Christian Gobel
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 922. Senate Bill 922 increases annual appropriations for the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation from \$250,000 to \$625,000, beginning in fiscal year 2025. The purpose of the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation is to develop, promote, and connect career opportunities in the built environment.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation provides meaningful opportunities and resources for students pursuing occupations in career and technical education, including scholarships, internship opportunities, and information on school programs that offer career and technical education.¹ The Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation illustrates the promise of partnerships between government, educational institutions, industries, and labor unions to deliver educational and job opportunities for students in career and technical education.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 922.

¹ Maryland Center for Construction & Innovation, Student Opportunities, <https://mccei.org/student-opportunities/> (last accessed March 1, 2023).

MCCEI Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Rustici

Position: FAV



March 13, 2023

Support- Maryland Construction Education and Innovation Fund - Funding – Alteration

Dear Senator Rosapepe and members of the Senate,

My name is Heather Rustici, Senior Vice President of Towson based construction management firm, Jeffrey Brown Contracting. I am testifying in support of increasing the funds allocated to Maryland Construction Education and Innovation in the annual state budget.

The construction industry is one of boundless opportunities for individuals of varying walks of life. Unfortunately, it is an industry that not everyone has exposure to. Exposure is key to education. You can't pursue what you don't know exists. Having grown up in a small upstate-New York town, in a middle-class family that prioritized education, I appreciate the value of exposure. Despite my parents' best efforts, there were only so many careers I was able to see within our small, somewhat stagnant, town. It wasn't until I moved to Baltimore in pursuit of my master's degree in psychology that I learned about all that exists within the A/E/C industry. It's mere chance that led me to the career I've established today.

I believe we owe it to the next generation to provide them with as much opportunity as possible and exposure to what is available to them. They deserve to know all that is possible so they can find a career that brings them meaning, purpose, and success. Maryland can only stand to thrive from a community of engaged and committed leaders specifically within careers of the built environment.

MCCEI has a mission of educating the younger generations on the careers available within the built environment. Careers that are accessible, reliable, and profitable. Not every student is interested in higher education. Not every student can afford a higher education. Not every student wants to take on insurmountable student debt. There are careers in the built environment that eliminate this. Students that enjoy working with their hands, want more active careers, and that gain satisfaction in seeing progress and change should have the opportunity to know what career opportunities are available to them. Construction offers these opportunities.

By increasing funding for MCCEI, we are providing opportunities to the young people of Maryland who are still searching for their purpose and a meaningful career. Senate Bill SB0992 would be a significant catalyst to improving our education system, providing opportunity to the younger generation, and to supporting an industry that serves its communities through growth and development. It is for these reasons and more that I am in support of Senate Bill SB0992 and asks for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Heather Rustici

Heather Rustici
Senior Vice President
Jeffrey Brown Contracting, LLC

Sb 922-LOS_Maryland Construction and Innovation Fu

Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe

Position: FAV



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March 15, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

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

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill 922 and requests a favorable report from the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. IEC Chesapeake supports The Maryland for Construction Education and Innovation's efforts to promote and connect career opportunities in the skilled trades, design, and engineering professions. It is critical that there is a continuous influx of new skilled workers for Maryland's businesses. IEC Chesapeake believes that it makes sense beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 to increase the state annual appropriation to \$625,000 from \$250,000. This increase will assist the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation in its mission to prepare workers for good careers in the construction industry.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

