

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

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

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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).