

**SB 33 - FAV - MHLA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amy Rohrer

Position: FAV

# MHLA

## Maryland Hotel Lodging Association

### Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association

In Support of  
SB 33 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024  
February 7, 2024  
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) serves as the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland’s 750+ hotels. Altogether our industry provides the state with \$1 billion in state and local taxes, \$5 billion in total wages and salaries, and \$9 billion in total gross domestic product.

Senate Bill 33 would generally require school systems to assist students with registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

The lodging industry offers three apprenticeship tracks<sup>1</sup> that are nationally registered with the US Department of Labor:

- Lodging Management Apprenticeship Program
- Hotel Cook Apprenticeship Program
- Maintenance Employee Apprenticeship Program

The programs were designed with the goal of aligning certification with the fundamentals of apprenticeship and were constructed using competencies found in leading American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) certifications. Apprentices in these programs can earn while they learn, but also acquire industry certifications and credit toward a college degree.

The AHLA Foundation has apprentices working in almost all 50 states across the country – from major hotel brands to large and small management companies and independent properties. The lodging industry offers more than 200 pathways toward a rewarding career and apprenticeship is a great option for a training program that combines on the job learning with classroom education for in demand occupations.

We hope that Maryland’s lodging employers may increasingly utilize apprenticeship as a recruitment and retention tool for building our future workforce. We support this proposed legislation as a means to that end, and respectfully request a Favorable Report on SB 33.

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<sup>1</sup> [Apprenticeship Program \(ahlafoundation.org\)](http://ahlafoundation.org)

# **SB33. The Arc Maryland. Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ande Kolp

Position: FAV



**EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**SB 0033: More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2024**  
**February 7, 2024**  
**Position: Support**

The Arc Maryland is a statewide advocacy and service organization that works to protect and advance the rights and quality of life of people with disabilities.

We support SB0033 because we believe it will raise awareness and availability of career pathways post high school for all students, and will benefit students with developmental disabilities by creating linkages to apprenticeships, informing students of postsecondary educational options, and informing students and families of employment and skills training opportunities that are available post exit from high school.

Maryland is an “Employment First” state. Employment First is a concept to facilitate the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the workplace and community. Under the Employment First approach, community–based employment is the first option for employment services for youth and adults with disabilities, regardless of the significance of the disability. The foundation of Employment First is that all individuals who want to work can work and have success when they are given opportunity, training, and supports that build upon their unique talents, skills and abilities.

The following chart, from less than one year ago,<sup>i</sup> summarizes how many individuals, receiving Developmental Disabilities Administration services, are employed on a full or part time basis in Maryland:

Hours Summary for all providers in all counties in all regions during the May 2023 Reporting Period						
Activity	Number of Individuals in Activity	Percent of Individuals in Activity	Average Hours in Activity	Number worked more than 20 hours/week	Percent worked more than 20 hours /week	Total hours worked this period
Individual Competitive Job	2,324	25.3	40.2	895	38.5	93406.8
Individual Contracted Job	373	4.1	42.4	166	44.5	15806.9
Group Integrated Job	144	1.6	25.6	23	16	3683.8
Facility Based/Sheltered Job	125	1.4	20.4	16	12.8	2552.7
Self Employment	17	0.2	24.1	4	23.5	410.2
Community Based Non Work	4,218	45.9	26.4	992	23.5	111236.2
Volunteer Job	1,162	12.6				
Facility Based Non Work	3,955	43				
No Activity Participation	1,191	13				
Unduplicated Total	9,188					

According to this chart, only a third of individuals with IDD who are supported by a DDA program are in employment. More than half are engaged in “non–work” or volunteer jobs. We can and should do better. We hope the opportunities, awareness, apprenticeship

opportunities, information, and training provided through SB0033 will help to move this dial, for better employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information, please contact:

Ande Kolp, Executive Director, The Arc Maryland [akolp@thearcmd.org](mailto:akolp@thearcmd.org)

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.statedata.info/mdda/charts/activity\\_2.php](https://www.statedata.info/mdda/charts/activity_2.php)

# **Employ Prince George's - SB 33 Testimony - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ardy Kamali

Position: FAV



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S  
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 400,  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
www.employpg.org  
(301) 618-8400

*Walter L. Simmons, President*

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**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 33  
**Title:** More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Hearing Date:** February 7, 2024  
**Position:** FAVORABLE

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Employ Prince George's, Inc. ("EPG") is a nonprofit organization based in Prince George's County, Maryland. EPG serves as the Administrative and Fiscal Agent of the Prince George's County Local Workforce Development Board and is responsible for regulating policy development and the administration of workforce activities related to services and programs funded by the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). Under the leadership of EPG, the Prince George's County Local Workforce Development Area serves over 30,000 jobseekers and 4,000 businesses annually.

Senate Bill 33 aligns with our organization's mission to expand access to career and technical education programs for students across the state. Specifically, by encouraging students to pursue hands-on training and industry-recognized credentials in high-demand fields, such as healthcare, information technology, and advanced manufacturing, this legislation will better prepare them for the jobs of the future.

Additionally, this bill promotes collaboration between schools, businesses, and community organizations, which is essential for ensuring that our education and workforce development systems are aligned with the needs of employers. By fostering partnerships between educators and industry leaders, we can create pathways to success for all students, regardless of their background or zip code.

Finally, by removing financial barriers for students seeking to take apprenticeship entrance or industrial certification exams, this legislation ensures that all students have access to these opportunities regardless of their financial circumstances.

Senate Bill 33 represents a significant step forward in providing our students with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in today's rapidly evolving workforce. Therefore, EPG respectfully urges a favorable report.

**MWA support SB 33 - Feb 6 2024 - 10-09?AM.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brandon Butler

Position: FAV



# MARYLAND WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

Kirkland Murray, *President*  
Brandon Butler, *Executive Director*  
[www.marylandworkforceassociation.org](http://www.marylandworkforceassociation.org)

## **MWA Members**

**Anne Arundel County**  
Anne Arundel Workforce  
Development Corporation  
Kirkland Murray, *Executive Director*

**Baltimore City**  
Mayor's Office of Employment  
Development  
MacKenzie Garvin, *Director*

**Baltimore County**  
Baltimore County Department of  
Economic and Workforce  
Development  
Neishali Schyler, *W/OA Ops.  
Manager*

**Carroll County**  
Carroll County Workforce  
Development  
Heather Lee Powell, *Manager*

**Frederick County**  
Frederick County Workforce  
Services  
Michelle Day, *Director*

**Howard County**  
Howard County Office of Workforce  
Development  
Francine Trout, *Director*

**Lower Shore**  
Lower Shore Workforce Alliance  
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,  
Counties)  
Leslie Porter-Cabell, *Workforce  
Director*

**Montgomery County** WorkSource  
Montgomery, Inc. Anthony  
Featherstone, *Executive Director*

**Prince George's County**  
Prince George's County Workforce  
Development Board Walter  
Simmons, *Executive Director*

**Southern Maryland**  
Southern Maryland Job Source  
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's  
Counties)  
Ruthy Davis, *Director*

**Susquehanna Region**  
Susquehanna Workforce Network,  
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)  
Kimberly Justus, *Executive Director*

**Upper Shore**  
Upper Shore Workforce Investment  
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)  
Dan Schneckenger, *Executive  
Director*

**Western Maryland**  
Western Maryland Consortium  
(Allegany, Garrett &  
Washington Counties)  
Deborah Gilbert, *Executive Director*

February 5, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members:

The Maryland Workforce Association, an association of the thirteen Local Workforce Development Boards, would like to express its SUPPORT of Senate Bill 33: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024. We also would like to thank Senator Jim Rosapepe for his steadfast support of Maryland's Public Workforce System and its 13 Local Workforce Development Boards.

The bill seeks to establish a pipeline of talent by providing Registered Apprenticeship and employment opportunities for high school students. The bill also seeks to create parity between Registered Apprenticeships and other post-secondary pathways, by requiring certain school systems to pay for Registered Apprenticeship entrance exams if the school system also provides the same benefit for other exams like advanced placement.

As you know, Registered Apprenticeships provide youth and adults with the ability to earn while they learn. While the workforce system has worked to grow the number of apprenticeships in Maryland, there is much more work to be done. We thank the sponsor for offering this thoughtful piece of legislation and respectfully request the Committee's support of this measure.

If you have any questions about the Association's support of this measure, please contact Brandon Butler, Maryland Workforce Association's Executive Director at [mwaexecdirector@gmail.com](mailto:mwaexecdirector@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

  
Kirkland Murray, *President*  
Maryland Workforce Association

**SB0033-EEE-MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 33

### *More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: February 7, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 33. This bill seeks to help level the playing field for Maryland students wishing to pursue vocational education and careers instead of post-secondary education.

SB 33 would require schools to pay the exam fees for trade skills and apprenticeship certification if they do so for college preparatory course exams (like AP and IB exams) and to help connect students with vocational apprenticeship and career opportunities as they do for colleges and universities. This is in line with county priorities and with the requirements of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (The Blueprint).

Maryland counties have historically supported alternative education and career paths, but doing so has recently become an even greater priority for local governments in response to the shifting labor market and workforce demands. Counties, like other employers, continue to face a shortage of vocational trade staff to hire or contract for critical infrastructure and public works projects. This raises county costs and pushes back project completion on key projects like building new schools and repairing roads and bridges – and Marylanders suffer for it.

Furthermore, acknowledging the growing trend and need to pursue vocational trades, The Blueprint places a large emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and apprenticeship and skills training. Counties are enthusiastic to implement this aspect of The Blueprint. In fact, in recent years, several counties have partnered with their local community colleges to develop educational and skill-building programs for high school students, and others have made historic budgetary investments to expand CTE programs in schools.

Maryland's students deserve access to every opportunity for post-K-12 success, and Maryland's public education priorities should reflect the modern needs of the labor market and workforce. SB 33 is a reasonable step to do so and for these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 33 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **HFAM Testimony SB 33.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

February 7, 2024

Senate Bill 33: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024

*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 33. 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.

Healthcare today faces 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 and create innovative public-private partnerships.

Senate Bill 33 requires certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for a student or a student's parent or guardian to authorize the release of the student's personal information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; requires each public high school to inform students of certain employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner.

This legislation would put certain apprenticeship programs on par with traditional college degree programs and requires school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

We support this legislation because workforce recruitment and retention challenges have long existed in healthcare, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have only grown worse over the last several years and they will remain even as we navigate a post-pandemic world. This legislation is important to ensure that we continue to find solutions to staffing challenges and remove barriers to entry after the pandemic.

As we plan our long-term "new normal" in healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more licensed professionals across the care continuum. Just as there are incremental steps of professional development and job classification in traditional trade apprenticeship approaches, some of us in healthcare are looking at developing similar types of career ladders for our sector.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 33.

*Submitted by:*

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.

President and CEO

(410) 290-5132

**SB33\_MSEA\_Lamb\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

**FAVORABLE**  
**Senate Bill 33**  
**More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**February 7, 2024**

**Lauren Lamb**  
**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 33, which would require certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of career certifications or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and require that each public high school inform students of employment and skills training opportunities. This bill would also require a county board to pay for a student to take an apprenticeship entrance exam or industrial certification exam if the county board covers similar expenses for students taking college preparation exams.

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).

This bill offers common-sense steps to align county board policies with the Blueprint's goal of promoting career readiness. By ensuring that vocational entry points are treated similarly to college preparation, the provisions in this bill would help make students aware of the range of postsecondary pathways available to them. We also appreciate the requirement that a county board ensure parity in access to college preparation and career entrance exams by covering both types of fees equally across the student body.

**We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 33.**

**MBIA Letter of Support SB 33.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV



February 7, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Support SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

In order to supply more housing and decrease the housing cost burden that Marylanders are currently experiencing, we need to increase the work force that is working the Trades. This bill would require that county boards of education to devise a mechanism to create an equivalency between vocational and apprenticeship programs and post-secondary education. MBIA wholeheartedly supports this measure. While education is an important requirement for many positions, it is not solely achieved through expensive post-secondary education. Apprenticeship programs and vocational certificates offer specialized training with a significantly lower cost that prepares students for a variety of career paths. MBIA supports requiring that county boards give equal opportunities to students that want to participate in one of these programs as well as scholastic achievement and provides them with equivalent help to achieve their career goals.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

# **SB033 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Studen**

Uploaded by: Mara Babb

Position: FAV



## **SB033 More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2024**

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT

### **SUPPORT**

Our names are Mara Babb, Subhashi Pradhan, Noor Chaudhry, and Julien Halleman, and we are students of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. On behalf of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC), we are writing in support of SB033 More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2024. If passed, the bill will require county boards of education to view the pursuit of certification and apprenticeships as equivalent to pursuing post-secondary education by informing students of employment/skills training opportunities and paying for certain apprenticeship entrance exams and industrial certifications. Additionally, this bill will establish a method to authorize the release of student information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; with consent from the student or parent/guardian.

CRASC strongly supports increased career-focused programs for students with varying interests and all socio-economic backgrounds. With higher education becoming less accessible due to high tuition rates and the repeal of affirmative action, this bill will allow students to pursue vocational trades and have access to jobs upon graduation. This bill will greatly support the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) have aligned in their 2022 blueprint. These programs enable students to earn a specific certification that is valued by industry communities during their high school education. It may take up to four years for students to gain hours required to earn industry certifications, however, students in CTE programs can simultaneously enroll in CTE courses while completing their graduation requirements in order to earn certifications earlier in their high school careers.

Access to apprenticeship and CTE programs will greatly benefit both students and businesses. With these opportunities for students of Maryland, they will be ahead of their peers from other states and be competitive for selective hiring processes. This will accumulate in students earning a salary while learning industry skills at the worksite by skilled mentors, gain experience and practice in technical and employability skills, and a jump start to full time employment right after graduation. Additionally, with CTE programs and the release of student information to certain apprenticeship sponsors/employers, businesses in Maryland are provided a stable and reliable employment pipeline, increased employee retention, a customizable and a systemic approach to training, and a positive return of investment.

These clear benefits of apprenticeships and certification programs have been both recognized by students and boards of education. According to the MSDE 2022 Blueprint for Maryland's Future, between the school years 2020-2021 to 2021-2022, participation in apprenticeships in high school increased by 108% which signifies the increased popularity and interest in career opportunities. Additionally, the blueprint sets the goal of having 45% of high school students participate and complete an apprenticeship or an industry-recognized occupational credential by the school year 2030-2031.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Supports...* The expansion of post-secondary resources through the employment of college counselors and opportunities such as college preparation initiatives, scholarship opportunities, and SAT preparation and administration; (Plank 3, Clause Q)
- *CRASC Supports...* Expansion of academic opportunities for all students by diversifying the curriculum; (Plank 3, Clause B)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB033.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mara Babb, Secretary of Legislation, [babbmara@gmail.com](mailto:babbmara@gmail.com)

Noor Chaudhry, Legislative Liaison, [noorschaudhry@gmail.com](mailto:noorschaudhry@gmail.com)

Julien Halleman, Legislative Liaison, [julienh123@icloud.com](mailto:julienh123@icloud.com)

Subhashi Pradhan, Legislative Liaison, [subhashi\\_pradhan@hotmail.com](mailto:subhashi_pradhan@hotmail.com)

**ABC\_FAV\_SB0033.pdf**

Uploaded by: Martin Kraska

Position: FAV



Associated Builders  
and Contractors, Inc.

**Maryland Joint  
Legislative Committee**

*The Voice of Merit Construction*

February 7, 2024

**Mike Henderson**

*President  
Greater Baltimore Chapter  
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

**Chris Garvey**

*President & CEO  
Chesapeake Shores Chapter  
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**Dan Bond CAE**

*President & CEO  
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**Marcus Jackson**

*Director of Government Affairs  
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**Martin "MJ" Kraska**

*Government Affairs Director  
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Additional representation by:  
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6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive  
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Beltsville, MD 20705  
(T) (301) 595-9711  
(F) (301) 595-9718

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
From: Associated Builders & Contractors  
RE: SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024  
Position: Favorable

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) represent more than 1500 construction and construction-related companies through its four Maryland chapters. Our members believe in the tenets of free enterprise, investing in their workforce and giving back to the communities in which they live, work and play.

Senate Bill 33 generally requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

ABC is in support of SB 33, registered apprenticeship programs offer invaluable opportunities for individuals to gain hands-on experience, develop practical skills, and secure well-paying jobs in various trades and industries. By extending support to high school students in preparing for admission to these programs, we are opening doors to fulfilling careers and addressing the growing demand for skilled workers in our communities. SB 33 not only acknowledges the importance of vocational education but also underscores the significance of early preparation and exposure to diverse career options.

As an organization committed to promoting excellence in construction and workforce development, Associated Builders and Contractors believes that by empowering students to pursue apprenticeship opportunities, we are investing in the future of our workforce and fostering economic growth and prosperity for generations to come.

ABC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 33.

*Martin "MJ" Kraska  
Government Affairs Director  
Chesapeake Shores Chapter*

# **SB33 - RMC Support Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Molli Cole

Position: FAV



50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401  
Office: 410-841-5772 • Voice: 410-841-5761 • TTY: 800-735-2258  
Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)  
Website: [www.rural.maryland.go](http://www.rural.maryland.go)

*Susan O'Neill, Chair*

*Charlotte Davis, Executive Director*

Testimony in Support of  
Senate Bill 33 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 7, 2024

**The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 33 – More Opportunities for Career focused Students Act of 2024.** This bill generally requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner like how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 33 obligates county boards of education to classify qualifying certifications or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing post-secondary education, which elevates alternative career paths for which there is acute demand in the current labor market. The bill would require schools to pay the exam fees for trade skills and apprenticeship certifications, provided they already do so for college preparatory courses, and would require them to help connect students with vocational apprenticeship and career opportunities, like they do for colleges and universities.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) recognizes the value of apprenticeships and the potential impact they have on growing Maryland's economy. Apprenticeships develop important pipelines that help retain youth within communities, while enabling them to acquire important skills that can be utilized in the workforce. The Council has long supported apprenticeship programs, such as the Campaign for Historic Trades in 2019. This program was launched by Preservation Maryland and the National Park Services and teaches students the skills to restore and maintain the historic buildings found in National Parks. Approximately 30 apprentices completed this program and 24 landed permanent jobs within the National Park Service. More recently, in 2022 the RMC supported the Shipwright Apprentice Program at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) in St. Michaels, Maryland. CBMM's four-year Shipwright Apprentice Program covers 8,000 hours of real work experience, including instruction and training on joinery techniques, ship layout, ship repair, and construction, as well as leadership and management skill development.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 33.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

*"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"*

**SB 33\_MAA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV



CHAIRMAN:  
Jeff Graf  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
David Slaughter

**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



TREASURER:  
Paul Bramble  
SECRETARY:  
Curtis Hall  
PRESIDENT:  
Tim Smith

February 7, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 33 – FAVORABLE – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 33 would expand the advisory role of local school systems by requiring them to assist high school students in researching and applying for employment and skills training opportunities across a wide variety of industries throughout the State similarly to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

MAA supports SB 33 because it will place comparable emphasis on alternative routes to postsecondary education after high school. Vocational training and apprenticeship programs provide students with an excellent option that result in high-paying, high-quality stable careers. Not every student is best suited for traditional post-secondary school. With these changes, they will be notified of, assisted with, and encouraged to pursue alternative options after they graduate, should that be a better fit. We are experiencing a nationwide labor shortage, and this bill will enhance those efforts to increase the workforce by spreading awareness of the numerous options available to high school graduates. The transportation industry would benefit greatly from the influx of a younger, highly trained workforce, and so we support this initiative.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 33.

Sincerely,

Tim E. Smith, P.E.  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association

**SB 33\_MTBMA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV



February 7, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 33 – FAVORABLE – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 33 would expand the advisory role of local school systems by requiring them to assist high school students in researching and applying for employment and skills training opportunities across a wide variety of industries throughout the State similarly to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

MTBMA supports SB 33 because it will place comparable emphasis on alternative routes to postsecondary education after high school. Vocational training and apprenticeship programs provide students with an excellent option that result in high-paying, high-quality stable careers. Not every student is best suited for traditional post-secondary school. With these changes, they will be notified of, assisted with, and encouraged to pursue alternative options after they graduate, should that be a better fit. We are experiencing a nationwide labor shortage, and this bill will enhance those efforts to increase the workforce by spreading awareness of the numerous options available to high school graduates. The transportation industry would benefit greatly from the influx of a younger, highly trained workforce, and so we support this initiative.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 33.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

# **UNFAVORABLE.SB33.L.Bogley.MDRTL.PDF**

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**Unfavorable**  
**SB33 – More Opportunities for Career Focused Students Act**  
 Laura Bogley, JD  
 Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

**Maryland Right to Life (MDRTL) is opposed to Senate Bill 33 as written, to the extent that the bill could authorize the abortion industry to recruit students in Maryland public schools and to pass costs for training and certifying student abortion workers onto Maryland taxpayers. Abortion is not healthcare and the state should not license and subsidize the abortion industry to recruit students for certification as substandard abortion providers.**

**RESTORE THE STANDARD OF REPRODUCTIVE CARE** - The practice of abortion in America has become the “**red light district**” of medicine, populated by dangerous, substandard providers. With the proliferation of chemical abortion pills, the abortion industry itself has exposed women to “back alley” style abortions, where they bleed alone without medical supervision or assistance. Maryland Right to Life has repeatedly advised legislators of the stated intent and agenda of the abortion industry is to increase abortion sales, particularly lethal chemical abortion sales, by expanding the number of health care workers who may perform or provide abortions, by expanding their **scope of practice** and incentivizing them with financial inducements at taxpayer expense. Reducing the credentials of those who may perform or provide abortions will increase the number of preborn children being killed and will put more women at risk of substandard medical care, injury and death.

**ABORTION IS NOT HEALTH CARE** – Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion kills, not cures. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women’s healthcare. Abortion is never medically necessary and poses risks to women’s physical and emotional health as well as to the health of future pregnancies. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care. For each Planned Parenthood in Maryland, there are 14 federally qualifying health centers and 4 pro-life pregnancy centers providing FREE services for women. The Maryland Department of Health must give women real CHOICE and protect women from abortion coercion, by providing information about and referrals to lifesaving alternatives to abortion.

**FEDERAL FUNDS AND FUNGIBILITY** - Without your amendment, this bill will necessarily apply to abortion workers and contribute to the enrichment of the abortion industry. The bill also serves as a pass-through mechanism for the use of federal funds to benefit the abortion industry. Under the concept of “**fungibility**”, any public funds used to offset the costs of doing business of the abortion industry, i.e. training workforce, is to be considered an public abortion subsidy.

**“D-I-Y Abortion” Drugs** - Reckless public health policies that authorize the unregulated proliferation of chemical abortion pills are brazenly removing abortion further outside the spectrum of “health care” as most women are now prescribed these lethal pills **without the benefit of a physician’s examination**. Physicians now serve only a tangential role on paper, either as medical directors for clinics or as remote prescribers of abortion pills. These non-medical abortion providers will be eligible for Maryland Medicaid reimbursement as well as undisclosed gratuities from drug manufacturers.

The abortion industry itself has referred to the use of abortion pills as “Do-It-Yourself” abortions, claiming that the method is safe and easy. But chemical abortions are **4 (four) times more dangerous than surgical abortions**, presenting a high risk of hemorrhaging, infection, and even death. With the widespread distribution of chemical abortion pills, the demand on Emergency Room personnel to deal with abortion complications has increased 500%.

**UNENFORCED** - The Maryland Department of Health has failed to ensure that existing abortion providers and facilities are complying with Maryland law. Women continue to be injured and killed in Maryland because of ineffective enforcement of existing abortion regulations. There are reports that unlicensed physicians continue to perform abortions in Maryland. The broad expansion of lower-skilled abortion providers, will create an enforcement nightmare for the Maryland Department of Health.

We must protect pregnant women in Maryland and other states by restoring the physician only requirement for all abortions (both surgical and chemical) and by making it clear that it is not within the scope or independence of practice of lower health care workers to provide or perform abortion.

**NO PUBLIC FUNDING** - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is *bi-partisan unity* on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

**FUNDING RESTRICTIONS ARE CONSTITUTIONAL** - The Supreme Court has held that the alleged constitutional “right” to an abortion “*implies no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.*” When a challenge to the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment reached the Supreme Court in 1980 in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, the Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that “*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*” -- and affirmed that *Roe v. Wade* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement.

**INVEST IN LIFE** - 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be *diverted from* but *prioritized for* health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to preserve the otherwise legitimate purposes of this bill by amending it to exclude its application to abortion, abortion workers, training and certification. While a statement of legislative intent by the bill sponsors may serve as an historical footnote, it will not prevent exploitation of this law by the abortion industry. We urge you to vote against any measure to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or certification.**

**We appeal to you to prioritize the state’s interest in human life and restore to all people, born and preborn, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.**

## Terrifying Botched Abortion by Nurse Results in Multi-Million-Dollar Suit Against Brigham-Connected Late-Term Facility (Excerpt Only)

October 14, 2021 By [Operation Rescue 14 Comments](#)



*Capital Women's Services is a late-term abortion facility in Washington, D.C. with connections to the discredited New Jersey abortionist Steven Chase Brigham. This is where a nurse conducted a botched late-term abortion that resulted in a major medical malpractice suit.*

By Cheryl Sullenger

Washington, D.C. – From the moment [Capital Women's Services](#) opened in 2017, there was controversy. The facility had quietly located in an unremarkable multi-office building on Georgia Avenue in northwest Washington, D.C. where there were few regulations that would hamper its very-late-term abortion business.

### Nightmare begins

Markeisha Hemsley, a Maryland resident, arrived at Capital Women's Services between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on the morning of October 25, 2018, for a second trimester Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) abortion. When she first made her appointment, the only information the scheduler asked for was her name and the length of her pregnancy. Hemsley was accompanied to the abortion facility by her mother. Together, they had managed to scrape together the \$1,495 for the second trimester abortion, which was paid with a combination of cash and credit card. Hemsley's malpractice complaint alleged that she was never fully informed about her abortion, which is a hallmark of Brigham's known practices. She was never told by anyone at Capital Women's Services what to expect, who would be doing her abortion, how the abortion would be done, or what risks she might be assuming in giving her consent for the abortion.

Hemsley's baby was 20.3 weeks gestation.

The lawsuit's [statement of facts](#) explained the national standard used for abortions at 20.3 weeks of pregnancy. The national standard of care for second-trimester abortions, and specifically for procedures at gestational periods of 20.3 weeks, required 1) the use of an osmotic dilator, typically laminaria, inserted 12-24 hours prior in order to dilate the cervix to 3-4 centimeters, depending on the size of the fetal tissue; 2) the use of two sizes of forceps, referred to as Bierer and Sopher forceps, to extract the fetal tissue and majority of the placenta through the cervix; and 3) a suction curette to then extract the remainder of the fetal tissue and placenta inside of the uterus. Cannulas are rarely wide enough to adequately aspirate the large amount of fetal tissue present at this gestational age. However, the national standard, as horrific as it is for the baby, was not even close to what Hemsley got.

At around 11:30 a.m., Hemsley was given two doses of Misoprostol. One dose was taken immediately and the second dose an hour later.

Her dosage was the same as given by Capital Women's Services for Methotrexate and Misoprostol (M&M) chemical abortions done at home over a period of several hours or days. In Hemsley's situation, the doses should have been taken three hours apart, with the abortion beginning six hours later for maximum dilation effect. This would have an impact on how the day unfolded.

About two hours and 45 minutes after taking the first dose, Hemsley's name was called, and she was escorted to a procedure room.

### Nurse Jefferson

That's when she met [Khalilah Q. Jefferson](#) for the first time. Jefferson had entered the room wearing a white lab coat, but never introduced herself, leaving Hemsley to assume she was a doctor.

Jefferson is, in fact, licensed as a registered nurse and a certified registered nurse practitioner in Washington, D.C., and Maryland — not a licensed physician.

In the District of Columbia, non-physicians, including nurse practitioners, are allowed to conduct abortions with no apparent gestational limit. However, second trimester abortions require a very different skill set than simply handing someone abortion pills, or even conducting a relatively simpler first trimester suction aspiration abortion. Nurse Practitioners simply are not qualified to conduct surgeries of this nature. During the second trimester, the risk of medical catastrophe rises with each passing week. The fact that Capital Women's Services allowed an unsupervised nurse practitioner to conduct complex second trimester D&E abortions – presumably up to 36 weeks – was appalling. The danger this posed cannot be overstated.

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With Hemsley under the illusion that Jefferson was a physician, Jefferson told her to “get undressed, lay down on the operating table, and place her legs in stirrups.” At approximately 2:15 p.m., Jefferson injected two drugs to induce conscious sedation. That was enough, along with the improper dosing of Misoprostol, to cause Hemsley to turn on her side and vomit.

### **Botched**

Jefferson then began the abortion using mechanical dilators, which were insufficient to adequately open Hemsley's cervix large enough to use the forceps needed to complete her abortion. It is important to note that her malpractice suit claims that osmotic dilators, such as laminaria, were *never* used on Hemsley.

In fact, Hemsley has no memory of seeing Jefferson use forceps at Capital Women's Services. According to the legal complaint, Jefferson negligently used a suction cannula with ultrasound guidance to begin removing the baby's body parts without bothering to first remove the larger pieces of the baby that would not fit through the suction tubing.

By this time, the sedation was beginning to wear off and Hemsley began to feel excruciating pain. As Jefferson rolled the ultrasound transducer over her abdomen, Hemsley heard Jefferson say repeatedly, “I missed it.”

According to treatment records referenced in the legal complaint, Jefferson was looking for the baby's calvarium, or skull. Jefferson had perforated Hemsley's uterus and shoved her baby's head through the tear where it lodged in her abdomen.

At this point, Jefferson should have called an ambulance to transport Hemsley to a hospital where she could get the surgery she needed to remove the calvarium and treat her uterine perforation and other complications.

Instead, Nurse Jefferson left the procedure room to inform Hemsley's mother that “the sonogram was not giving a clear enough image of the fetus, and that she wanted to move Ms. Hemsley to ‘her other office’ where they had better equipment,” according to the complaint.

### **“Shut up!”**

Jefferson never bothered to tell Hemsley's mother that the “other office” was in Maryland and that no ambulance would be called.

Suffering in pain with a life-threatening internal injury, Hemsley was placed in the back seat of Jefferson's personal BMW SUV with the help of other clinic workers.

Unsure of where she was being taken and in so much pain that she feared she might die, Hemsley begged Jefferson to take her to a hospital.

The complaint narrative described Jefferson's atrocious behavior during the estimated 27-minute nightmarish drive from the D.C. facility to the Moore OBGYN's Greenbelt, Maryland office:

Jefferson transported Ms. Hemsley to the Moore OBGYN facility at 7525 Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt, MD, approximately 14 miles away and across a state line. Ms. Hemsley remained in tremendous pain and pleaded for Jefferson to stop and take her to the hospital. In response, Jefferson turned the volume up on the stereo to drown out Ms. Hemsley's cries, insulted her, and yelled, “Shut up!”

With the help of an unidentified employee of Moore OBGYN, Hemsley was taken inside, placed on a “operating table,” and hooked up to a sonogram belt. Hemsley lay in pain, unsure of what would happen next.



## Illegal abortion?

Jefferson attempted to complete the abortion, even though in Maryland, to do so was a violation of state law that allows only licensed physicians to conduct abortions.

Hemsley's malpractice complaint detailed what happened next.

At this point, Ms. Hemsley's medication had worn off, and she was in extreme pain. She cried out for Jefferson to stop and felt like she was going to die.

Jefferson did not stop and . . . used forceps to try to remove the calvarium from the abdominal cavity through the cervix, a hazardous maneuver with Ms. Hemsley's uterus already perforated.

[Hemsley's mother], who had followed Jefferson to the Moore OBGYN facility and heard her daughter's cries, entered the operating room and saw Jefferson standing in front of her screaming daughter holding bloody forceps. Jefferson finally relented and agreed that Hemsley should go to the hospital. As Hemsley's mom attempted to call for an ambulance, Jefferson pleaded with her not to reveal the location of the office.

It is unknown how Jefferson thought the ambulance would know how to reach them if the 911 dispatcher was not given the address.

Hemsley's mother refused not to identify the office, so Jefferson then "grabbed [the] phone from her hand and impersonated [Hemsley's mother] to the 9-1-1 dispatcher, repeatedly referring to Ms. Hemsley as 'my daughter.'" Hemsley, with only her mother's help, was forced to take an elevator to the lower floor then wait on the curb for the ambulance. Held up by her mom, Hemsley drifted in and out of consciousness due to the extreme pain.

When the ambulance arrived, Jefferson "intercepted" the EMTs and identified herself as an employee of Moore OBGYN. She then proceeded to give them a false story about Hemsley's abortion and the true extent of her injuries.

"This misrepresentation was intentional, self-serving, reckless, completely disregarded Ms. Hemsley's rights, and prolonged her pain and suffering," the complaint stated.

## Other lies

In Hemsley's charts, Jefferson repeatedly omitted important information or just downright lied about her procedures and Hemsley's condition during the abortion.

Below is an example quoted directly from Hemsley's malpractice complaint.

Hemsley's cervix was noted as dilated to 101 millimeters, or 10.1 centimeters. This diameter is both physically impossible with a mechanical dilator and medically unnecessary. Jefferson also reported an estimated blood loss of just 25 mL, an astonishingly low number for a procedure that typically produces a blood loss in the 100 mL — 400 mL range.

For the record, [complete cervical dilation](#) for a woman delivering a full-term baby is 10 cm, at which time, she can begin to push the baby into the world.

## Finally at the hospital

Hemsley was finally transported by ambulance to George Washington Hospital's emergency room, arriving at 6:15 p.m. There, she displayed an "altered state of consciousness" and complained of throbbing, severe abdominal pain. She was diagnosed with massive internal bleeding. Doctors discovered a seven-centimeter (or nearly 3 inch) tear in the uterus.

Hemsley was rushed into surgery where she was given a horizontal "bikini" incision that stretched from hip to hip so that the surgeon could clean up the blood that pooled between her organs, repair her uterine perforation, and inspect her urethra and bladder for injury. Her uterus was temporarily removed from her body so the skull of her baby could be located and removed.

A doctor consulted with Hemsley after her surgery and advised her not to have children for two years. She explained that if Hemsley ever did become pregnant, she would require strict monitoring and could never deliver vaginally again.

In all, Hemsley spent four days in the hospital.

She was so traumatized by her horrific experience that she feared seeing an OBGYN. It wasn't until February 2021 that she was able to muster the courage to visit an OBGYN again. She continues to suffer "psychological and emotional symptoms, especially in October."

Hemsley's lawsuit is seeking a total of \$30 million in compensatory and punitive damages, costs, and whatever other relief "the court deems just and proper."