February 6, 2024

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

RE: SB 426 (Hettleman) - Education - Maryland STEM Program - Established –
TechNet Support.

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to offer support to SB 426 as it relates to the
Maryland STEM Program.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior
executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a
targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse
membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the
most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and
countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the
sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and
finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg,
Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, and Washington, D.C.

TechNet supports policies that help prepare our students to be a successful part of
a global, interconnected, and technology-driven economy. We support the
recruitment and development of qualified teachers and innovative administrators.

Specifically:

- Professional Development: TechNet supports dedicated funding for sustained
  and robust training for high-quality STEM and computer science teachers,
  both pre-service and in-service.
- STEM teacher shortage: TechNet supports efforts that address the severe
  shortage of qualified STEM, computer science, and IT teachers and develop a
  sustainable pipeline of talent.
- Teacher Certification: TechNet supports the establishment of computer
  science and IT certification pathways that ensure all computer science and IT

teachers have appropriate knowledge of and are prepared to teach the curriculum.

- Empower Teachers and Administrators: TechNet supports programs that empower teachers and administrators to make informed decisions on the procurement of technology, leverage technology to evolve classroom teaching, and improve collaboration through communities of support.

Based on the reasons stated above, TechNet supports SB 426. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic