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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB11–Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Leasing Training Program -
Establishment**

**Thank you, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment
and Transportation Committee for this opportunity to testify in favor of my legislation.**

I am here today to testify in favor of my legislation, HB11, to establish a Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Leasing Training Program. The Leasing Training Program, as outlined in this bill, is designed to equip job seekers with the necessary skills to embark on careers as leasing agents within the growing residential rental housing industry. This initiative is particularly crucial at a time when the demand for qualified leasing professionals is on the rise, offering a gateway to stable, well-paid jobs that offer significant growth potential throughout the rental housing industry.

The heart of this program lies in fostering designated partnerships that bring together employers, trade associations, local boards, nonprofit organizations, and other relevant entities. These collaborations are instrumental in not only training job seekers but also in seamlessly connecting them with career opportunities. By doing so, we ensure that the bridge between training and employment is not just built but is strong and effective.

Moreover, the Leasing Training Program is inclusive in its approach, targeting those who might find it challenging to secure employment. This includes individuals without college degrees, the formerly incarcerated, and those seeking a career change. For many in these groups, options are limited, and this program offers a lifeline to not just a job but a career with dignity and potential for advancement.

The establishment of this program aligns with our broader vision for Maryland – a state where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our growing economy. By investing in our people, we are not just enhancing individual lives; we are strengthening our communities and our state's economic foundation.

With this leasing training program, we can support those partnerships and programs that can open doors to rewarding careers for Marylanders.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.