

SB358 Letter of Support_Angel St. Jean, CEO, The E

Uploaded by: Angel St. Jean

Position: FAV

I am writing to express my enthusiastic **support** for the Senate Bill 358 which requires the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to include an option for applicants to provide demographic information. As a Black woman and founder in the technology industry, and specifically as a founder who has developed tech to help organizations use data to drive equitable results, I believe that this initiative is a significant step towards fostering equity within the Maryland technology ecosystem.

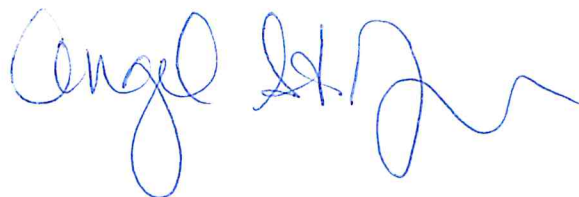
The technology sector has long grappled with issues of underrepresentation, particularly for individuals from marginalized communities. Despite the undeniable talent and innovation that diverse founders bring to the table, there has been a persistent lack of diversity in investment decisions and access to resources. This proposed legislation represents a proactive approach to addressing this disparity.

Including an option for demographic information in the investment application process will provide valuable insights into the diversity of applicants seeking and receiving support from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation. This data can serve as a foundation for evidence-based policies that promote equitable access to opportunities for entrepreneurs from all backgrounds and will position TEDCO as a leader amongst its peers in using data to drive equitable growth. Furthermore, by prohibiting adverse actions against applicants who choose not to disclose this information, the legislation ensures a respectful and inclusive application process.

The requirement for the Corporation to submit a report to the Governor, the Maryland Economic Development Commission, and the General Assembly is an important mechanism for allowing a range of stakeholders to benefit from the Corporation's efforts in supporting diverse entrepreneurs. By collecting and analyzing demographic information, we can better understand the challenges faced by underrepresented founders and implement targeted initiatives to address those challenges. This legislation has the potential to create a more inclusive and thriving technology ecosystem in Maryland, fostering innovation from a diverse range of perspectives.

As a tech founder who is deeply invested in the success of the technology community in Maryland, I know that together, we can build a more inclusive and equitable future for the technology industry in our state. For these reasons, I urge a **favorable** report on SB358

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that this legislation will have on our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angel [unclear]". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ILN Written Testimony - SB 371 of 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Kelter

Position: FAV



SB 189: Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services
(Homecare Workers Employment Act of 2024)

Testimony of the Maryland Centers for Independent Living

SUPPORT

Senate Finance, February 8, 2024

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Maryland were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. CILs are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. The seven Maryland CILs are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

The Independent Living Network submits this written testimony in strong **support** of SB 189.

Many individuals with disabilities depend on personal assistance services to support activities of daily living and to live safely and fully participate in our communities. Individuals with disabilities requiring personal assistance know their personal care assistants (PCAs) well and know how essential PCAs are to their well-being. Individuals with disabilities depend on a strong PCA workforce.

The shortage of PCAs has been acutely felt in the community of individuals with disabilities. Without PCAs, individuals with disabilities struggle with activities of daily living and are unable to fully participate in the communities in which they live. Without PCAs it is a struggle and sometimes impossible for individuals with disabilities to transfer from a wheelchair to beds and washrooms. Without PCAs it may be impossible for individuals with disabilities to get nourishing meals and necessary medications. PCAs offer care for individuals with disabilities in the most personal and intimate manner. PCAs assist individuals with disabilities to attend family gatherings, participate in community events and functions, and shopping. Throughout the pandemic, and even now, PCAs have been essential workers.

Individuals with disabilities depend on PCAs and how the PCAs improve activities of daily living and participation in the community. PCAs have the support of individuals with disabilities for the essential work that they do, and the improved job benefits they deserve. A stronger workforce, with better protections, is better for all Marylanders.

SB 189 will improve job quality for PCAs and will ensure that Medicaid dollars are well spent. The Maryland Independent Living Network **supports** SB 189 and **urges** a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support.

Contact Information:

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SB 358_Senator Cory McCray.pdf

Uploaded by: Destiny Bell

Position: FAV

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Statement of Senator Cory McCray In Support of Senate Bill 358 - Economic Development –
Maryland Technology Development Corporation – 3 Application and Reporting Requirements**

Vote Yes to SB 358

Title: Economic Development – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – 3 Application and
Reporting Requirements

Finance Committee

Hearing: February 06, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your favorable vote on **Senate Bill 358**, a key piece of legislation that requires investment applications submitted to the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) to include an option for applicants to provide certain demographic information. The Corporation is prohibited from penalizing applicants who choose not to disclose such information. Additionally, the Corporation must submit a report to the Governor, the Maryland Economic Development Commission, and the General Assembly by a specified date. The report should cover applicant and investment activities, along with demographic information of applicants and founders, if available.

The purpose of **SB358** is to enhance transparency and accountability within the MTDC while ensuring the equitable distribution of state funds. The requirement for the MTDC to submit a detailed report to key stakeholders, including the Governor, the Maryland Economic Development Commission, and the General Assembly, adds an added layer of clarity. This bill establishes clear application and reporting standards to ensure that the MTDC effectively and responsibly allocates state funds, fostering a more accountable and transparent utilization of resources.

Significance and Impact: The significance of **SB358** is that the introduction of demographic information in investment applications by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation holds significant implications for the state's entrepreneurial landscape. By incorporating demographic details into the application process, this bill supports fostering inclusivity and connection within specific demographics. This bill will also help empower minority communities by enhancing access to resources, mentorship, and collaborative networks.

This bill prioritizes the advancement of Maryland residents and their ability to create wealth, which is why I would like to urge a favorable report for **Senate Bill 358**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory V. McCray
45th District

(final) SB358 FIN hearing - Reporting & Applicatio

Uploaded by: Troy LeMaile-Stovall

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 358 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - APPLICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

FEBRUARY 6, 2024 -- POSITION STATEMENT

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build great Maryland-based, technology companies. In 2023, TEDCO celebrated our 25th anniversary. With the support provided by the State of Maryland, TEDCO's six core programs generated **a total of \$2.7 billion in Maryland economic activity as of 2023, supporting a total of 12,000 jobs and generating estimated annual state and local government revenues of \$140 million.**

According to the fiscal and policy note, SB 358, requires TEDCO “to include an option for an applicant to provide specified demographic information in its investment application. TEDCO may not take any adverse action against an applicant who declines to provide the information, and the application must include a statement that the information is voluntary but encouraged.” TEDCO must also report the specified information related to the corporation's investments and, if available provide related de-identified and disaggregated demographic information.”

A number of TEDCO's programs, including the Social Impact Programs, already require the inclusion of demographic and geographic information as application elements. Demographic reporting elements include race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability status, and veteran status. Additionally, applicants are asked to provide geographic information including mailing address and county. **Further, at the direction of the TEDCO Board, the agency is already taking steps to include additional demographic information in both application and reporting for the majority of TEDCO programs.**

For example, in FY 2023, TEDCO began collecting demographic data for all Investment Applications during the fiscal year. Data collected over the year showed:

- 41 of 59 investments (69%) were directed towards companies founded or led by a female or an individual from an underrepresented demographic population;
- Maryland Venture Fund Companies founded or led by a female received, on average, \$875,000 – the average investment size for a Maryland Venture fund company was \$697,000; and
- 9 of 22 (41%) seed funds were invested in companies founded or led by socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals.

It is important to note – demographic data is self-reported and applicants are provided an option to not disclose their demographic information. **More significantly, demographic data is not used in investment determinations, rather is utilized to develop, plan, prioritize, and improve TEDCO programs to ensure all entrepreneurs, including entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved populations, are aware of and provided the resources, education, and tools they need to take their innovations to market.**

However, our work does not stop here and TEDCO continues our efforts in this area. For example, TEDCO hosted a free [Black Female Founders Venture Capital Forum](#). On November 15, 2023, at Coppin State

University. Over 200 entrepreneurs attended this event. Also last year, TEDCO launched the Open Institute for Black Women Entrepreneurs of Excellence, in collaboration with the four Maryland HBCU's. These are just two examples of TEDCO's initiatives.

While TEDCO is proud of our work with underrepresented communities and entrepreneurs, we can always do better and embrace the changes created by SB 358.

TEDCO appreciates the opportunity to provide a position statement on this legislation and urges favorable consideration of SB 358.