

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB 816 – Economic Development – Cyber Maryland Program – Alterations

April 2, 2024

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 816, a technical bill to amend the Cyber Maryland Program and Fund to make them more consistent with the other programs that TEDCO manages.

Senate Bill 816 is the cross-file of House Bill 1486, which this committee voted out unanimously. However, there are two amendments. The first is technical, and the second includes a \$250,000 appropriation. This funding is for the talent pipeline management portion of the CyberMaryland Program, which aims to align the rapidly changing skills needed in the industry with the State's workforce programs.

TEDCO has done an amazing job in the first year of this program, and you will find a draft of the first report alongside my testimony. With these changes, the program will accelerate to achieve its mission of filling critical jobs in the cybersecurity industry.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB816 as amended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester".

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard and Montgomery Counties