

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.

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