



March 4, 2024

The Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 583 – Legislative Scholarship Programs – Eligibility and Use –
Real Estate Appraisal Program - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 583 and respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report.

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce represents businesses across a wide range of industries that are committed to fostering economic growth and workforce development in our community. Senate Bill 583 is a crucial step in addressing workforce needs, particularly in the real estate sector, by expanding access to legislative scholarship programs for those pursuing careers in real estate appraisal.

The real estate industry is a key driver of economic development in Prince George's County and throughout Maryland. However, there is a growing demand for qualified real estate appraisers, which has created a bottleneck in property transactions, lending processes, and economic development initiatives. By allowing Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships to be used for the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria of the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) Program, SB 583 will:

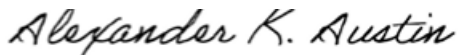
- Expand access to career pathways for individuals seeking licensure in a high-demand field.
- Support workforce development by providing financial assistance for certification and licensure programs.

- Promote economic growth by addressing the shortage of real estate appraisers, ensuring more efficient property transactions and development projects.
- Encourage non-traditional and career-changing students to enter a profession that is critical to Maryland's housing and business sectors.

This legislation aligns with Maryland's broader efforts to strengthen workforce training programs and ensure that our scholarship funds are being used effectively to support economic mobility. By removing financial barriers for students pursuing real estate appraisal certification, SB 583 will help create a more robust and diverse workforce within this essential industry.

For these reasons, the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **Senate Bill 583**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander K. Austin".

Alexander K. Austin
President & CEO