



## Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee

### HB956 Consumer Protection – Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation

Position: FWA

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
cc: Members, Senate Finance

Chair Beidle and members of the committee:

Economic Action, formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland. Our direct service programs assist clients in every county in Maryland.

We agree with the goals of HB956 which is to create a workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation. AI offers both promise and peril for a variety of sectors including education, housing, employment, financial products and services, the arts and more.

There are opportunities to save time and labor on rote tasks as well as concerns about unintended consequences of AI, data privacy, and more. Economic Action Maryland Fund describes some of the many factors to consider in our [Digital Equity and Justice in Maryland: Challenges and Opportunities](#).

Expanding the proposed Work Group to include a broader range of advocates and experts to contribute to the discussion is an opportunity to ensure that stakeholders represent a variety of perspectives and experiences. Workgroup and task force bills on AI throughout the country, including New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Colorado, and more,<sup>1</sup> recognize this need for balanced stakeholder involvement by including ACLU, AFL-CIO, academic, and other public interest representatives explicitly in their workgroups. Adding representatives from labor, civil rights, consumer protection, and privacy organizations will ensure there are voices focused on

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<sup>1</sup> H.B. 24-1468, 2024 Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Colo. 2024); H. 378, 2017-2018 Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Vt. 2018); S.B. 2, 2025 Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Conn. pending bill), [https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB2](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB2); *Members*, NYC Automated Decision Systems Task Force (2018), <https://www.nyc.gov/site/adstaskforce/members.page>.

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protecting Marylanders' rights involved in important discussions about the future of AI in the state.

To achieve this goal, we recommend the following amendment:

Under (5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR: 9 (I) FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARYLAND 10 TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL; 11 (II) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE E-COMMERCE 12 INDUSTRY; 13 (III) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BIOTECHNOLOGY 14 INDUSTRY; 15 (IV) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE REAL ESTATE 16 COMMUNITY; 17 (V) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HEALTH CARE 18 SECTOR; AND 19 (VI) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

ADD) LINE 20 THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARYLAND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS  
LINE 21 THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARYLAND CIVIL AND LABOR RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS  
LINE 22 THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARYLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

We are happy to work with the sponsor to discuss these amendments and urge the committee to adopt these critical amendments to HB956.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director

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