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COLLEGE MEMBERS

Community College
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Coppin State University
Goucher College
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Institute
College of Art
Morgan State University
Notre Dame of Maryland
University
Stevenson University
Towson University
University of Baltimore
University of Maryland,
Baltimore
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County
University of Maryland,
College Park

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Baltimore City
Baltimore County

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh and
The Honorable Tawanna Gaines
Members of the House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building Room 121
6 Bladen Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 79 Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP)

Dear Chairperson McIntosh, Vice Chairperson Gaines, and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of the 14 member campuses of the Baltimore Collegetown Network, thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 79, which expands the Maryland Technology Internship Program to include nonprofit organizations as beneficiaries of this important state resource. We need **direct pathways for nonprofits** to recruit student interns with strong technical skills in our data-driven, innovation-focused world.

The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) connects talented college students with leading tech sector and start-up companies in Maryland by creating a direct pathway from college to internship to future career. It is no surprise to members of this committee that data and technology are the leading drivers of change and innovation across all industries, including nonprofit organizations. The program, which launched in the fall of 2018, has placed high-achieving students in internships and thus has increased the number of quality internship positions in the region, engaged students in the start-up community, and supported the growth of Maryland's next generation of innovators.

The Baltimore Collegetown Network includes 160,000 students. Every three years we conduct a survey of those college students, which includes the question, "*How likely are you to stay in Baltimore after you graduate?*" In the 2018 results, only 36% of students responded they were "definitely likely" to stay after graduation, which indicates there is significant work to be done to shift attitudes of prospective future Marylanders.

Additionally, students report access to a job after graduation as the number one factor that will determine whether or not they stay. The link between internships and future full-time employment is undeniable.

HB 79 will expand MTIP to include nonprofit organizations, which need interns who can support growing technology challenges. This expansion will continue to positively impact communities across the state of Maryland and attract career-focused Generation Z college students to Maryland higher education institutions. Through this bill, we can ensure that students from all backgrounds and educational disciplines have the opportunity to be exposed to organizations, ideas, and technologies that will help them build their future careers right here in Maryland.

Thank you for considering my testimony in favor of House Bill 79.

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