

**Testimony in Support of  
House Bill 79- Maryland Technology Internship Program**

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Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jameka Wiggins I am a junior at the University of Maryland Baltimore County studying Engineering. I am a member of the Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Scholar Program and have a passion for service learning experiences. I have worked as a manufacturing specialist for 2 life science small businesses located at the BWtech. Through those experiences, I operated 3D printers and complimenting software, performed quality assurance for consumer products and worked on labeling and product information to ensure standards and compliance. I built 3D models which is the hands on experience I could only get in an internship site. I have participated in MTIP for 2 semesters. Today, I am here to express my support for House Bill 79 which helps to grow the technical internship opportunities in the state of Maryland.

Originally from Maryland, I know that opening this program to students with a lower GPA would allow more access and equity to students across the state. I am a student who currently has a 3.0, but have worked incredibly hard for my GPA. Many of my peers do not have a 3.0 because of the rigorous technical coursework expected of them. Allowing these students to participate in MTIP would enhance the quality of full time employees post graduation. I am passionate about service learning and the inclusion of nonprofits in the program as I know nonprofit organizations need technical talent just as for profit organizations. Both of

these changes would improve MTIP and workforce development in Maryland. I urge you to consider these alterations to House Bill 79. Thank you for your time.