

# MARYLAND WORKFORCE ALLIANCE



## House Bill 840 Joint Committee on Workforce Development FAVORABLE

Mister Chair and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brigette Dumais and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Workforce Alliance, a statewide, multi-industry coalition of 35 trade associations, labor unions and apprenticeship providers united to build a world-class workforce in Maryland through common sense legislation. The Alliance works for the creation of jobs in markets experiencing labor shortages by advocating for Career and Technical Education (CTE) in public schools, certificate programs in community colleges, youth apprenticeships, and registered apprenticeship programs.

We strongly support HB840 because it will institutionalize legislative oversight on workforce development, including CTE

and apprenticeships. Workforce development is currently under the subject matter jurisdiction of several legislative standing committees.

A Joint Workforce Development Committee is necessary for advancing concise, effective workforce development strategies statewide. Workforce development is a multifaceted area involving many different sectors in the economy-- including but not limited to healthcare, education, and agriculture, to name a few. Instead of going through multiple committees representing a few industries at a time, it makes more sense to have a single committee overseeing workforce development. Together, we can advance common sense workforce development in Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Maryland Workforce Alliance respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB840.

Sincerely,  
Brigette Dumais  
Executive Director  
Maryland Workforce Alliance  
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