

**Informational Testimony regarding Senate Bill 868
Apprenticeship Maryland 2030**

**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on Senate Bill 868, legislation that would restructure the oversight, purposes, and funding of Maryland’s Career and Technology Education (CTE) program as well as extend tax credits for employers who hire apprentices.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA believes career and technical education (CTE) provides students with important skills and career opportunities so they can better compete in the Maryland economy. As such, we support efforts to adequately fund the expansion of these efforts—so that more students have access to these opportunities—and to enact programmatic and policy changes necessary for their successful implementation. By allowing more high school students access and opportunities to “earn and learn” through their participation in registered apprenticeship programs, we make it easier for students to explore CTE options and gain valuable hard and soft skills that can benefit them well into the future—be that in the pursuit of a college career or in pursuit of industry recognized certification.

Given the significant change to CTE programs that are incorporated into the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, we believe the actions called for in this legislation might be premature and could possibly be either confusing or at cross purposes to that which will be implemented upon enactment of the Blueprint. As such, we believe it would be wise to refrain from making any sweeping changes to our state’s CTE programs until such time as the Blueprint is in the implementation phase.

No matter their choice for a future path, we know that students who participate in youth apprenticeship programs will be in a more solid position as they take their place in the state’s economy, benefitting all Marylanders. We look forward to playing our part in supporting CTE efforts in the go forward.