

MARYLAND WORKFORCE ALLIANCE



IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 302

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Brigette Dumais and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Workforce Alliance, a coalition of 35 trade associations, labor unions and apprenticeship providers that have come together to support common sense workforce legislation. The Alliance works for the creation of jobs in markets experiencing labor shortages through career and technical education in public schools, certificate programs in community colleges, youth apprenticeship programs and registered apprenticeship programs.

The Maryland Workforce Alliance strongly supports Senate Bill 302, sponsored by Senator Jim Rosapepe, because it will institutionalize legislative oversight over workforce development, including career and technical education, youth apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships.

Workforce development is under the subject matter jurisdiction of several legislative standing committees and it would be very helpful to have a single joint committee to exercise legislative oversight.

This joint committee is necessary for advancing concise workforce development strategies statewide. Workforce development is a multifaceted area because it involves so many different sectors in the economy including healthcare, education, and business development, 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.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 302. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brigette Dumais
Executive Director
Maryland Workforce Alliance
443-985-8833, brigette.dumais.mwa@gmail.com