



February 26, 2020

SB724 – State IT Hiring Act
Position: Favorable

Hello Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, Members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of my company, Attila Security and as Chairman of the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland (CAMI), where I represent over 500 cyber companies in the State of Maryland. With a growing need of Cybersecurity professionals in our state at the federal, state and local level as well as our 500 cybersecurity companies, CAMI strongly supports the passage of Bill SB724.

Our companies need more skills than just those with bachelor's degrees. We need high school graduates, interns, apprentices, people with AA degrees as well as people returning to work. If potential employees have the appropriate training that is really all our companies need. On a personal note, my co-founder at Attila Security, stated at NSA at the age of 16, learned valuable skills there, built a product, created a company, and we built Attila to provide a highly secure product used by the US Government today. He never finished college and what is most impressive is how well respected he is with our customers as a 25-year-old.

Cybersecurity skills come in all sorts of forms. Acknowledging that reality will help the State government cultivate the best talent possible – it's what I do every day at my cybersecurity companies. I strongly recommend supporting this bill to fill the State's workforce needs and open up cybersecurity jobs and opportunities to more people.

Sincerely,

Gregg Smith
CEO, Attila Security
Chairman, Cybersecurity Association of Maryland