

Testimony in Support of House Bill 307- Maryland Technology Internship Program

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Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nikolas Sicilia I am a junior at the University of Maryland Baltimore County studying Business Technology Administration and Entrepreneurship & Innovation. Because of MTIP, I was able to obtain a fall internship with ITNova which is a small, woman owned IT Consulting Firm. I run my own start up and hope to be the CEO of my own startup upon graduation. I am here today to express my support for House Bill 307 which not only allows students to gain experience in the IT field but also create more, accessible opportunities. Internships allow students to network, gain hands-on “real world” skills, create relationships with mentors, and explore different areas in the vast field of Technology.

Originally from Ellicott City, Maryland, I transferred from a 2 year school to UMBC. Transferring presented me with a learning curve, I had to learn how to manage a busy school schedule and demanding coursework. I know that opening this program to students with a lower GPA would improve the program and allow different types of students to participate. Many of my peers struggle between a 2.8 and 3.0 GPA and this range is common amongst students studying technical coursework.

The inclusion of nonprofit organizations would be positive to the program as well. I served as an intern in the public defender's office and know first hand the difficulty nonprofits and public organizations struggle with resources. Technology needs are in every industry and

allowing nonprofits to access MTIP funding would greatly improve Maryland communities. I urge you to consider lowering the GPA requirement from 3.0 to 2.5 and to include nonprofit organizations in the program. These changes will only increase the talent in the program and expose students to more hands on experience which will make them more engaged employees as they enter the workforce in Maryland. Thank you for your time.