

January 13, 2021

Senator Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: S.B. 0257, *Sales and Use Tax-Vendor Collection Credit- Job Training*

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee:

Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake is a strong supporter of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow for qualified job training organizations to keep the taxes that are currently remitted to the state through the sale of donated goods, permitting them to further invest in their communities through workforce development programs. This bill would impact thousands of individuals throughout the State of Maryland by allowing qualified job training organizations to increase their capacity by providing access to quality remedial education, apprenticeships and employer needed skills and jobs. As we enter our 102nd year of service in Central Maryland and the Eastern Shore, we hope to continue to increase the impact of the workforce development services we provide. Senate bill 0257 will help us do that. Goodwill program participants filled more than 750 jobs with employers throughout our territory with an average wage of \$13.80. If passed, we could provide funding towards an adult high school that would allow individuals twenty one years of age and over the opportunity to obtain their high school diploma through an accelerated two-year program, while simultaneously engaging in job training.

With the challenges of 2020, Goodwill's workforce development services are needed more than ever to assist individuals impacted by the pandemic return to the workforce. We've started to providing our skills trainings virtually, expanding our reach to Maryland residents beyond those that are geographical near our career centers. If passed, we can increase our impact in the community by providing access to critical resources, adult basic education, apprenticeships and job readiness trainings to create a workforce pipeline to middle skilled employment, resulting in stronger communities and the overall economy for the state of Maryland.

Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc. strongly urges you to support SB 0257.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rusyniak
President and CEO