

MARYLAND WORKFORCE

A L L I N C E

Date: February 17, 2021
Committee: Economic Matters
Legislation: Testimony on HB 653 Joint Committee on Workforce Development
Position: Support

My name is Stephanie Anderson and I am here representing the Maryland Workforce Alliance. The Maryland Workforce Alliance is the statewide coalition that unites trade associations, unions, and non profits to promote a world-class workforce in Maryland. By helping to bridge the skills gap and address critical employment shortages in key fields, we work to forge pathways that connect employers, apprenticeship sponsors, and job seekers.

Maryland Workforce Alliance requests a FAVORABLE report by this committee. This bill would aid in the evaluation of the status of Maryland's public and private-sector workforces. The bill allows for the evaluation of workforce skill shortages and identification of strategies to expand employment opportunities and increase income for Marylanders by improving policies on workforce skills including career and technology education and apprenticeship programs. The bill will allow the Committee on Workforce Development to review the various bodies involved in workforce development programs, including programs under the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the Governor's Workforce Development Board. This coordination will improve accountability in reviewing workforce programs and provide valuable insight by the legislative branch of government on workforce policies.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage this committee to vote favorably on HB 653.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie P. Anderson, Esq.
Maryland Workforce Alliance