



House Economic Matters Committee

Testimony Submitted by Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director

February 17, 2021

HB 658 Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup (Making It in Maryland)

Position: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges which represents all of Maryland's 16 community colleges supports HB 658 establishing a workgroup to study and make recommendations relating to the State's current and future workforce and emerging digital economy. Maryland's community colleges are the leading provider of workforce training leading to industry licensure and certification. Last year, our community colleges awarded 53,068 licensure and certifications. That is in addition to the number of customized programs for existing industries totally 73,000 participants.

Our community colleges are the primary provider of programs leading to a strong middle class which ensures Maryland's economic vitality. We support the intent of this bill in developing a workgroup that would be charged with making recommendations to all segments of Maryland's education system that provide programming in this area.

The Committee should recognize that a thorough review and analysis will require technical expertise. **MACC therefore recommends the inclusion of two community college representatives on the Committee; one representing our credit programs of study that lead to associate degrees or bachelor's degrees and one representing our non-credit programs of study that lead to industry credentials.**

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