



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Lily Qi

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 17, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 653 – *Joint Committee on Workforce Development*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 653.

House Bill 653 establishes a Joint Committee on Workforce Development to (1) evaluate the condition of Maryland's public- and private-sector workforces; (2) monitor workforce skills shortages; (3) identify strategies to expand employment opportunities and increase income for Marylanders through workforce skills policies; (4) monitor workforce educational training; and (5) review and evaluate the effectiveness of relevant programs, policies, and practices, including career and technology education (CTE) programs and apprenticeship programs.

MTC is pleased to support House Bill 653, as it recognizes the need to continue investment in career and technology education programs and other workforce development programs. As reported by the Department of Commerce, local economic development agencies, economists, and various business periodicals, Maryland, due to its well-educated and talented workforce, is a dominant leader in both the biotechnology and cybersecurity industries. Currently, Maryland ranks 4th in the nation's top 10 biopharma clusters in 2019. Maryland ranks first in NIH research and development contract awards, first in federal obligations for research and development on a per capita basis, and first in concentration of employed doctoral scientists. Moreover, as home to the nation's top security agencies such as the U.S. Cyber Command, NSA, DISA and NIST, Maryland is the U.S. headquarters for cybersecurity. Maryland has over 35 incubators and research parks and a talent pool of over 116,000 IT professionals.

House Bill 653 would help ensure that we continue to cultivate the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs and maintain our advantage in the biotechnology and cybersecurity fields. As such, we urge the House Economic Matters Committee to give House Bill 653 a favorable report.

For more information call:

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