

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act of 2021**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing a postsecondary education. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. While we recognize that a post-secondary education is an important step for many career paths, new technology and focused education has made it easier than ever to learn new skills quickly. The economy of today is often highly specialized, and it is important for workers to have a specific skill set rather than a broad education. Allowing people who have obtained these specialized skills to be considered along with their peers that took a more traditional college route levels the employment playing field and will provide employers with a larger pool of capable candidates for a position.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee