



CAREER CENTER

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March 15, 2021

Members of the House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building Room 121
6 Bladen Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 307 Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP)

Stance: Support

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) helps Maryland retain top talent by increasing the number of paid technical internships offered by employers in the state.

MTIP officially launched in August 2018 and offers financial assistance to technology-based businesses, as well as state and local agencies, to hire more interns. To date, MTIP has funded over 600 internships, within nearly 150 unique organizations representing a wide range of tech industries including cyber security, advanced manufacturing, bio-tech and artificial intelligence to name a few.

This is a great start, however, we can and need to increase this number across sectors to recruit our next generation of technology talent. I am writing today to offer my support for HB307 to expand the program to nonprofits and lower the GPA threshold for students to be more inclusive.

Nonprofit organizations have a need for technical talent in fields such as web development, data science, graphic design, and social media. As technology has merged with all industries, nonprofit organizations are no exception. By including non-profit organizations in MTIP, a student who has strong technical skills would have the opportunity to make an impact and move a nonprofit organization's mission and work forward.

This expansion is important to nonprofits as they face several recruiting challenges for technical talent. Many nonprofits lack the recruiting infrastructure needed to support campus hiring and the budget to provide hourly salaries offered by private companies. Their industry competitors have robust recruiting budgets and presence on campuses which puts nonprofits at a disadvantage. This MTIP expansion will provide nonprofits with match intern funding to support the growth of their technical talent pipeline.



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Through this program we also work to create an inclusive environment that supports all of our technical students and industries in Maryland. The current GPA requirement presents an equity issue as one bad semester can affect a student's opportunity to get an internship. These high-level technical courses can be incredibly difficult for students.

This expansion continues to lift recruiting barriers for organizations and students and allows a true pathway to hire and retain technical talent for the state of Maryland. Please support HB307.

Sincerely,

Christine Routzahn
Director, UMBC Career Center
Maryland Technology Internship Program