



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 308 - Higher Education – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship - Revisions

Sponsor: Senator Ellis

January 27, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 308, which would allow the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship to be used by individuals who enroll in a non-credit continuing education course focused on entrepreneurial activities or career development, or who enroll in a course because they have been laid off from their job through no fault of their own. The bill also exempts these individuals from the grade point average required to maintain the scholarship.

The GBC recently released *Preparing for the Future: A Regional Workforce Development Initiative*, which makes a series of recommendations to strengthen and enhance future workforce development activities. Among the recommendations in the report is the need to provide more funding for non-degree training programs. Expanding the Promise Scholarship to additional programs is a move in the right direction.

In addition, the GBC's *2021 Legislative Priorities* calls on the Maryland General Assembly to allocate additional state funds for adult basic education and workforce training. Senate Bill 308 is consistent with that priority and provides an additional resource for Maryland adults who are trying to find new careers in this rapidly changing economy.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 308.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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