

Testimony in Support of House Bill 307- Maryland Technology Internship Program

Name: Jameka C. Wiggins

School: University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

Major: Engineering, Member of the Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Scholar Program

Address: 2104 Brewton Street District Heights, Maryland 20747

Contact: jameka2@umbc.edu / (301)-613-9111

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jameka Wiggins I am a junior at the University of Maryland Baltimore County studying Engineering. I am a member of the Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Scholar Program and have a passion for service learning experiences. I have worked as a manufacturing specialist for 2 life science small businesses located at the BWtech. Through those experiences, I operated 3D printers and complimenting software, performed quality assurance for consumer products and worked on labeling and product information to ensure standards and compliance. I built 3D models which is the hands on experience I could only get in an internship site. I have participated in MTIP for 2 semesters. Today, I am here to express my support for House Bill 307 which helps to grow the technical internship opportunities in the state of Maryland.

Originally from Maryland, I know that opening this program to students with a lower GPA would allow more access and equity to students across the state. I had times throughout my academic career where my GPA went below a 3.0 and if employers did not give me a chance, I would not be on the career path I am today. Allowing these students to participate in MTIP would enhance the quality of full time employees post graduation. I am passionate about service learning and the inclusion of nonprofits in the program as I know nonprofit organizations need

technical talent just as for profit organizations. Both of these changes would improve MTIP and workforce development in Maryland. I urge you to consider these alterations to House Bill 307.

Thank you for your time.