



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

**SENATE BILL 845 -- EDUCATION --
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE SCHOLARSHIPS - ELIGIBILITY**

Sponsor -- Senator Benson

March 9, 2021

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

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 845 which would allow individuals who are directly enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program to be eligible for a Workforce Development Sequence scholarship.

Under current law, the term “eligible student” is limited to those who are enrolled in a workforce development sequence at a Maryland community college. A workforce development sequence is defined as a program offered by a community college that is related to job preparation or an apprenticeship, licensure or certification, or job skill enhancement; or it can be a registered apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning in the Maryland Department of Labor.

The expansion of eligibility would allow individuals who are directly enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program to also qualify for the scholarship.

Senate Bill 845 is consistent with one of the core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth in the GBC report *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*.

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland’s business needs. Maryland’s secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland’s business sectors.

The bill will allow individuals participating in a broader range of apprenticeships in high-growth sectors to benefit from the scholarship. This is consistent with the Greater Baltimore Committee’s 2021 Legislative Priorities which encourage policymakers to strengthen education and workforce systems to prioritize equity, accountability, and alignment with Maryland’s high-growth industry sectors.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 845.

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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