

# MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

January 14, 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. Administered by UMBC and funded by the State of Maryland, the program aims to educate and encourage Maryland students to stay in the state of Maryland post-graduation and increase the awareness of technical employment opportunities in Maryland.

To date, MTIP has funded 600 internships, within 146 unique organizations representing a wide range of tech industries like cyber security, advanced manufacturing, bio-tech and artificial intelligence to name a few. I am writing today to offer my support for HB307.

Through this program we 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 grade can affect a student's ability to get an internship. These high level technical courses can be incredibly difficult for students.

Nonprofit organizations have a need for technical talent as well. Organizations have shared there is a need for interns who possess skills in technical fields such as web developers, graphic designers and social media interns. 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 non profit organization's mission forward.

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

Sincerely,

Annie Weinschenk  
Assistant Director

## Maryland Technology Internship Program