

# MARYLAND WORKFORCE A L L I N C E

## **SB 903 – Traditional Trade Apprenticeship Fund**

### **Informational Testimony**

### **Senate Finance Committee**

**March 17, 2021**

The Maryland Workforce Alliance (MWA) is a statewide membership organization of 36 trade associations, labor unions, and apprenticeship providers. Our members are from all sectors including but not limited to healthcare, automotive, transportation, clean energy, maritime, state employees, service workers, agriculture, cybersecurity, IT, the building trades, and more. The Alliance advocates common sense workforce training legislation to increase investment in skills training programs that help Marylanders acquire the skills needed to obtain jobs in high wage, high growth occupations. Through our work, MWA aims to bridge the skills gap, address critical employment shortages in key fields, and augment robust Career & Technical Education that is integrated with registered apprenticeship programs.

MWA has reviewed this bill and its members are intrigued with the potential impact on new job creation and career development. MWA has several thoughts that it would like to share:

- MWA sees the potential within this bill to provide on-ramps to future apprenticeships across the trades and favors amending the bill to expand trade partnerships to be more inclusive – trades such as finishing trades, electrical, plumbing etc.
- MWA members would like a better understanding how the projects for this program will be selected.
- MWA applauds the efforts to create a historical preservation career track.

MWA shares the values of job creation through pre-apprenticeship programs.