

TrainACE
7833 Walker Drive,
Greenbelt
MD 20770

March 10, 2021

Dear Madam Chair:

Sincerely, my name is John Walther, and I am the General Manager at TrainACE. I urge you to support Senate Bill 902 to establish the Cyber Workforce Program in the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program. The Cyber Workforce Program will leverage existing infrastructure in the Department of Commerce and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. Utilizing federally awarded workforce development funds to create the Cyber Workforce Grant Fund, this Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland. Fundamentally, SB 902 creates the framework for industry-driven input and collaboration in the development and execution of Maryland's workforce development strategy.

On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, and this does not include cyber positions embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we do not have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions.

As a provider of instructor-led cybersecurity training in Maryland for over 20 years we have firsthand experience of the challenges new and current IT professionals have in getting the high-quality training they need to be able to apply for the open positions mentioned above. Online, virtual training is affordable, but often lacks the quality and timeliness of classroom learning with a live instructor. We believe that the establishment of a Cyber Workforce Program would not only improve cybersecurity infrastructure in Maryland but could be used to help make quality cybersecurity training accessible to a wider pool of candidates.

By supporting and investing in this Bill and the Cyber Workforce Program, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. Simply put, Senate Bill 902 can put people to work and be the economic driver we need, especially as Maryland recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

I hope I can count on you to support this critical legislation.

John Walther
General Manager
TrainACE
CAMI Member Company