

Maryland General Assembly Finance Committee
& Budget and Taxation
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



CAREER CENTER

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Re: Letter of Support for SB0902

Stance: Support

Madam Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Economic Development - Cyber Workforce Program and Fund (SB0902). Since 2018, MTIP has reimbursed 600 internships, 50% of which have gone to cybersecurity firms, to support well-developed, inclusive and varied talent pipelines for employer needs in Maryland. The demand to obtain intern matching funds allocated to MTIP far exceeds the current budget allocation. MTIP obtains over 500 applications each fiscal year and is able to fund roughly 50% of those submitted based on the current budget.

Cyber threats have disrupted every sector of our lives, the Economic Development - Cyber Workforce Program and Fund will support the training and development for improved security. In Maryland, there are more than 12,000 local cybersecurity and IT firms who compete for a limited supply of qualified workers, by passing this legislation, the program can retain and source workers to increase employment and address the security gap in Maryland.

Pipeline programs such as MTIP and for example, the University of Maryland Baltimore County Cyber Scholars Program, have a proven track record for increasing the number of skilled technical workers in the state of Maryland. These collaborative partnerships greatly increase the number of technical professionals in Maryland. By partnering with industry, higher education and government, SB 0902 will support the next generation of cybersecurity professionals in our state. Additionally, the bill will broaden the cyber competency and potentially focus on increasing the participation of women and other underrepresented groups in this fast growing field.

MTIP fully supports this workforce development initiative to increase the technical cybersecurity talent in the state of Maryland. I urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Routzahn

Christine Routzahn
Director
Career Center
University of Maryland, Baltimore County