



**Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce**

*In Support of  
House Bill 1446---Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center—Workforce  
Development Programs--Funding*

*March 15, 2022  
House Appropriations Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 1446—Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center—Workforce Development Programs—Funding.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber strongly supports policy measures that assist in building an environment that encourages businesses and the community to grow and prosper. Workforce development measures strike at the heart of that. By training and upskilling our workforce, companies can enjoy happier, more content staff, lower turnover and exciting growth opportunities. This, in turn, leads to downstream benefits for businesses and supports growth for the economy as a whole. House Bill 1446 allocates \$5M for each fiscal year 2024 and 2025. These dollars would require the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center to establish or support workforce development programs at the Center. Measures like this one are important any time but especially now as we continue to adjust to the changes in the workforce and the economy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request a favorable vote on House Bill 1446. And we thank Delegate Solomon for being introducing this bill.