

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

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POSITION: FAVORABLE

April 8, 2022

Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chairman Chang, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 753.

The Cyber Workforce Accelerator will leverage existing infrastructure in the Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. This Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland.

On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only our industry, but cybersecurity functions that are embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we don't have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions.

1. Lack of qualified candidates
2. While remote work opportunities exist, this precluded lower income areas as they have a lack of access to wireless, internet and hardware
3. Inability to reach many candidates who aren't in some sort of Job database, making a state database where workers can source work and seek opportunities in conjunction with state resources would help alleviate this issue.
4. Challenge of attracting and finding diversity in our field (HUBZone, POC, women in CyberSecurity)

The Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator would provide an infusion of resources to impactful training programs and will help remove barriers to build a skilled and diverse cybersecurity talent pipeline. By supporting and investing in this Bill and the Cyber Workforce Accelerator, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. Our organization urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.