



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Eric G. Luedtke

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 24 – *Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 24.

The Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program provides opportunities for Maryland students to obtain scholarship support to pursue education and training in cybersecurity. House Bill 24 proposes several notable alterations to the program that will expand and enhance the program's effectiveness in providing support to students who wish to pursue a career in cybersecurity. The alterations include increasing the number of years a scholarship recipient may hold an award; expanding the positions that qualify for a recipient to fulfill the scholarship program's work obligation; and creating a scholarship framework for providing support to part time students. House Bill 24 also creates a Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program that will enable students employed in the cybersecurity field by state or local government, a local education authority, community college, or public institution of higher education to repay their loans from an institution of higher education.

Passage of House Bill 24 will enhance the State's support of students who are pursuing a career in cybersecurity for which there are expanding career opportunities in both the private and public sector. It also strengthens the State's workforce development initiatives to meet the increasing demand for well-educated individuals in cybersecurity, particularly in the public sector. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000