

Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

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POSITION: FAVORABLE

April 7, 2022

I am writing today to support SB753, the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Program, which would expand the Maryland Technology Internship Program. As a recent Information Systems graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), I have been fortunate enough to intern at an MTIP supported organization, the Maryland Department of IT (DoIT). At DoIT I interned for a semester where I mainly worked on documentation projects that go to help the organization executives and department leaders better understand themselves. My main function was to gather information on business and IT resources and transform them into an easily digestible format for strategic purposes. I was offered a full-time position with DMI which is a state authorized contractor for DoIT.

Students need access to valuable hands-on experiences like internships to be well-rounded, competitive professionals post-graduation. Internships provide students with valuable and applicable experiences which complement their in-classroom experience and help transition them from the classroom to the workforce. My own personal experiences have shown me how important internships truly are. I would not be in the position I am today without having had those opportunities.

As a recent graduate, I understand the urgent need for a skilled technical workforce. As we have witnessed over the past few years, cybersecurity remains a constant threat to every industry, having the potential to disrupt our economy and even our critical infrastructure. I know that by having these internship experiences, I was able to contribute in a meaningful way to our workforce and the citizens of Maryland. The Maryland Technology Internship Program has allowed small tech companies and state agencies to

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pay competitive hourly rates and gain access to talented individuals who will lead the next generation of security and IT professionals.

Expanding the Maryland Technology Internship Program would allow more security and technology firms and agencies to expand their internship programs, pay more competitively, and provide lasting career experiences for many more young people like myself. As a student who has gone through internship programs such as this, I urge a favorable report. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.