

JEFF JACOBSON, ESQUIRE, CPA
TREASURER
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable James Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: S.B. 798, Sales and Use Tax – Vendor Collection Credit – Alteration

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

My name is Jeff Jacobson, current Treasurer and former Chair of the Board of Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake. I have been involved with Goodwill for over 15 years.

Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake is a strong supporter of SB 798 which allows qualified job training organizations to retain the sales tax revenue that are currently remitted to the state through the sale of goods donated to those organizations. These retained funds are then invested back into the communities served through workforce development programs.

Since 1919, Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake has provided comprehensive job readiness services for those with the least access to employment opportunity. The main career center, located in downtown Baltimore, provides job readiness training, case management, GED and skills training, job placement and retention, and transitional employment opportunities. All programs are provided at no cost to participants and collectively serve more than 4,000 new individuals annually.

In the past few years, Goodwill has been working to develop an adult high school. Known as the Goodwill Excel Center, this school follows other Goodwill successful models and is designed unlike any current adult education program in Maryland. Through a blend of traditional high school course requirements, students earn credentials that increase access to higher education, employment with higher wages, and increased career prospects. Students will be able to attend classes in the morning, afternoon and/or evening, five days a week, 12 months a year. From its downtown Baltimore location, the Excel Center will address critical non-academic barriers to employment opportunity, such as transportation, childcare, reliable housing, mental and physical health. Adult high schools offer services and opportunities that prepare its students for careers in middle skill industry sectors that pay a family sustaining wage.

This tax credit, being adjusted through SB 798, will allow Workforce Development agencies, like Goodwill, to expand their capacity with programs like The Excel Center and provide a broader prepared workforce in the state, thus helping to improve the lives of many, as well as our economy.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 798. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jacobson, Esquire, CPA