



Maryland Works, Inc.

State Finance and Procurement – Procedures

**Written Testimony of Mary Manzoni, CEO, Maryland Works, Inc.
Presented to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
February 16, 2022**

Good afternoon, Committee Chair and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. My name is Mary Manzoni. I am the new CEO at Maryland Works, a statewide membership association dedicated to expanding employment and business ownership opportunities for people with disabilities/other barriers to employment. I am submitting testimony today in support of SB461.

Maryland Works serves as the state-appointed coordinating entity (CE) for the Employment Works Program (EWP), one of Maryland's socioeconomic preferences in state procurement. In that role, we help nonprofit community service providers to secure state procurements which they utilize in providing skills training and employment experience for Marylanders with disabilities. We also help entrepreneurs with disabilities to gain experience and business growth opportunities through state procurements and procurements of state-aided or controlled entities.

Passage of SB461 will advance Maryland's efforts to refine and strengthen its procurement system. Among other things, the bill would consolidate pricing authority for the Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) under the same pricing and selection committee that was originally formed to set prices for the Maryland Employment Works Program (EWP). Several years ago, pricing authority for Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) was added under the same committee. We believe that the streamlining of what otherwise constituted three separate committees undertaking the same or similar work makes sense. In short, the move to consolidate the separate committees represents "good government" practices.

On behalf of our entire organization, we thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and urge your favorable report on SB461 with amendments.

Thank you.