UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 753
Labor and Employment - Workforce Development - Cybersecurity
March 17, 2022
Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor, Government Relations, USM
Jack Suess, CIO & Vice President for Information Technology, UMBC
Favorable

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for Senate Bill 753. The University System of Maryland (USM) is a major resource in Maryland's workforce development system and a key partner with the State in a Workforce Development initiative designed to produce 3,000 more graduates a year with degrees in the growing fields of cybersecurity, STEM, and healthcare. University System of Maryland institutions also award large numbers of post-baccalaureate certificates and industry certifications and collaborate with all community colleges and K-12 school systems to expand the workforce pipeline.

Growing the pool of talented Maryland workers in fields with high workforce demand will help to meet the needs of these burgeoning industries, attract more of these businesses to the State, and continue to grow jobs throughout the region.

In collaboration with the State of Maryland and sister USM campuses, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) has emerged as a hub for cybersecurity workforce development, administering initiatives that include varied higher education, K-12, government and industry partners. UMBC's role in the State's cybersecurity ecosystem includes achieving a 60 percent increase in computing majors over the past 10 years, supporting cybersecurity workforce training and apprenticeships through UMBC Training Centers, launching innovative programming at its research and technology park to attract one of the greatest concentrations of cybersecurity companies in the nation, and applying investment from the State to establish the UMBC Center for Cybersecurity, which integrates education and workforce partnerships with the research of faculty leaders in this dynamic field.

The State has tapped USM and UMBC to host several cybersecurity workforce development initiatives that SB 753 would help bring to scale:

The Maryland Institute for Innovative Computing (MIIC): MIIC was established as a collaboration between the Governor of Maryland and UMBC to apply the talent at UMBC and other USM institutions to establish computing innovation extension rapid response teams to develop solutions for the most pressing it and data analytics needs in state agencies; develop solutions for IT problems in state and local government through applied research in cybersecurity, data sciences, and artificial intelligence; and activate a multi-level computing and technology workforce development strategy for State agencies by leveraging the maryland technology internship program and workforce upskilling.

The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP): The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) helps Maryland retain top tech talent by increasing the number of paid technical internships offered in the state. Students from all Maryland higher education institutions and community colleges meeting academic qualifications are eligible to participate. In 2021, 92 organizations spanning 10 counties hosted 142 paid interns from 21 higher education institutions. Administered by UMBC and funded by the State of Maryland, the program offers financial assistance to technology-based businesses, as well as state and local agencies, to hire more interns.

The Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCEE): A collaboration with USM, (MCCE) expands access to high-quality Pre-Kindergarten-12 (P-12) computing education by strengthening educator skills and increasing the number of computer science teachers in elementary and secondary education. It also serves as a focal point for broader collaborative initiatives to increase the availability and quality of P-12 computing education across the state, including stakeholder meetings and partnerships; teacher certification efforts; standards and curriculum development; innovative pedagogical research and practices; training and awareness for administrators, students, and parents; and coordinating with related national efforts.

The Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Program that Senate Bill 753 would build on already established university-government-industry partnerships to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Again, we urge your support.