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TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

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POSITION: FAVORABLE

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Thank you madam chairperson and members of the committee for allowing me to testify today. I am here today to offer a student's point of view on why the committee should support SB753, the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Program, which would expand the Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP).

I am a recent Information Systems graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where I had multiple internships and technical positions throughout my four years. One of which was with the Maryland Department of Information Technology and although I am not representing their views on this legislation, I am representing my experience as a student intern turned full-time employee at the Maryland IT Department. I was fortunate enough to intern for a semester at the department in the Office of Enterprise Architecture working on documentation projects that allow, specifically department executives, to see and understand the organization as a whole to more efficiently link strategy, business, and technology. The Maryland Department of IT receives matching funds through MTIP to support their internship program.

As an intern, I worked on projects which have had direct impact on various aspects of cyber security at the state level by allowing our security and infrastructure teams to better understand themselves. This experience has made me a more well-rounded individual at work and at home. Students all over Maryland need this kind of access to valuable, paid hands-on experiences like internships to be able to seamlessly transition from the classroom to the workforce. Internships provide students with applicable

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experience which complements their in-classroom experience. There is a need for skilled and talented graduates in Maryland. It is no secret that cyber threats infiltrate all industries and can be extremely costly, not only to our economy, but potentially to our critical infrastructure as well. The Maryland Technology Internship Program has allowed small tech companies as well as state agencies to pay competitive hourly rates and attract high quality students to foster the next generation of security and IT experts.

Expanding the Maryland Technology Internship Program would allow more tech firms and state agencies to expand their internship programs and pay more competitively. This means more young people like myself would have more opportunities to have their lives and careers changed in a truly meaningful way. As a student who has been through the course of programs like this, I urge a favorable vote. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.