

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

PRAMOD RAHEJA
AIRGILITY, INC.

POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 16, 2022

Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chairman Chang, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1334.

The Cyber Workforce Accelerator will leverage existing infrastructure in the Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. This Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland.

On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only our industry, but cybersecurity functions that are embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we don't have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions. MTIP allows us to give opportunities to students across a range of disciplines, these include Cyber, aerospace, mechanical, electrical, robotics, AI & computer engineering, computer science and sales enablement and digital marketing. MTIP has been an amazing direct pathway for a technology-based business such as ours to recruit student interns with strong skills in our innovation focused world (and keep them in MD!). After three years of working with MTIP, I am convinced that the funding that MTIP provides is a competitive advantage for the state.

The Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator would provide an infusion of resources to impactful training programs and will help remove barriers to build a skilled and diverse cybersecurity talent pipeline. By supporting and investing in this Bill and the Cyber Workforce Accelerator, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. Our organization urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Pramod B Raheja
CEO, Airgility, Inc.
pramod@airgility.co
703-798-7850