



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

MICHELE L. WHELLEY
PRESIDENT & CEO
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF GREATER BALTIMORE

POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 16, 2022

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, and Members of this Committee, I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the board of directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB) to voice our strong support for Senate Bill 753.

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.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region and elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities to attract the talent and skilled workers needed to support the growth of our primary industry sectors as well as to create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

Cybersecurity is a major growth industry sector for all of our member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties. Without a robust pipeline of educational, training and apprenticeship programs, there will continue to be a dearth of workers needed to support this growth. Currently, on any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only companies specializing in cybersecurity but also 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.



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, residents in the Greater Baltimore region and throughout Maryland will be trained for good paying jobs with high growth potential.

For the reasons detailed above, EAGB strongly supports and urges a favorable report on SB753. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Cc: EAGB Board of Directors (list attached)



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