

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

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POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 16, 2022

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of 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.

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. As an economically disadvantaged woman owned small business we are often in the position of searching for qualified talent but often finding individuals that do not meet the current industry standards or specific and very restrictive job requirements. This leads to frustration on both sides of the table, the individuals that are looking for employment are discouraged after repeatedly being denied opportunities, and small businesses are left with unfilled positions which can prove detrimental to the growth and life of the business.

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.