



# POSITION STATEMENT

## TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 9 – Procurement – Minority Business Enterprises – Study**  
Sponsor: Senator West, et al

**March 29, 2022**

**DONALD C. FRY**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**  
**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

### **Position: Support**

Senate Bill 9 would require the certification agency designated by the Board of Public Works to study and report recommendations for streamlining the process for certification of minority business enterprises. The study would include a review of other State and federal certifications that might be acceptable to use to certify a minority business enterprise, as well as recommendations to streamline and improve the process.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports this legislation. It requires a thorough review of current practices and challenges facing businesses attempting to secure certification. During the pandemic, many disadvantaged, minority, and women owned businesses have struggled to survive. Eliminating inefficiencies and redundancy in certification regulations is a simple but significantly beneficial way to help disadvantaged businesses recover.

In the Greater Baltimore Committee report *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, eight core pillars were identified for a competitive business environment.

**Regulatory policies that are streamlined, stable and predictable.** Maryland must project to businesses within and outside the state that its government regulatory policies are reasonable, relevant, free of surprises or redundancy, and considerate of businesses' sense of urgency.

**Government leadership that unites with business as a partner.** Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

Minority businesses face significant hurdles that stem from the legacy of systemic efforts to keep them from being full participants in the economy. The GBC contends that reducing redundancy for minority businesses will be a benefit to them individually and the entire business community as a whole.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 9.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • [www.gbc.org](http://www.gbc.org)