



Senate Bill 478
Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations
FAVORABLE

Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Lincoln Tech, we wish to offer our support of HB 478 – Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations. Lincoln Tech has been domiciled in Maryland for 65 years. In that time, we have educated and prepared thousands of Marylanders for careers in the skilled trades. Our fields of study include automotive technology, welding, electrical, HVAC, and culinary arts and baking and pastry. In the last ten years, we have produced 4,483 credentialed alumni. In the reporting period ending June 2021, we placed 86 percent of our graduates into jobs in their field. Our college, and career schools and trade skilled programs alike, are the solution to meeting Maryland’s skilled workforce gap and Senate Bill 478 can play a pivotal role.

Lincoln Tech regularly evaluates the workforce needs of Maryland and the United States and make programmatic adjustments to meet these workforce needs. No programmatic decision is made without a workforce assessment. A perfect example of this is welding, an industry facing a projected national shortage of 400,000 workers by 2024. In 2019, Lincoln Tech adapted its programmatic offerings and made significant capital investments to introduce a 10-month welding program. In the first year, we placed 100 percent of our credentialed graduates and the program continues to grow in enrollment every year. Lincoln Tech and similar schools can play a vital role sharing their workforce insights with the Career and Technical Education Committee to ensure the curriculum being introduced is maximized to meet the workforce needs of the state.

The average age of a Lincoln Tech student at the Columbia Campus is 24. Some of these students skew older from their military experience or they enroll to pursue a second career. However, many enroll later in life because they discovered the opportunity several years after they graduated high school.

There are currently 110,000 students in at least one CTE course. Much of the CTE programming can be continued at community college or a four-year college, however, many require enrollment in a skilled trade school or a career college. HB 541 ensures that students are provided with a list of all career colleges and skilled trade programs. While most will pursue a college education, we want to ensure students are aware of all post-secondary options available to them, whether it is with a career college or a skilled trade organization.

We understand there are amendments under consideration to place parameters around qualifying institutions and disclaimers which we fully support. We thank you for your consideration of our testimony and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Cory Hughes
Campus President