



**Office of the President**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250

president@umbc.edu p: 410-455-3880

Appropriations Chair Benjamin S. Barnes, Esq.  
Lowe House Office Building, 121  
6 Bladen Street,  
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401

Dear Appropriations Chair Barnes,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of House Bill 1132, "State Government – Technology and Science Advisory Commission– Established", introduced by Delegates Hill, Charles, Qi, Ruth, and Wu. Passage of this bill would reflect Maryland's leadership in considering the societal impacts of adopting rapidly evolving technology, including algorithmic decision systems and artificial intelligence (AI) systems, through a well thought out approach working with experts.

AI technologies, if not used with a responsible lens, may cause harm and can have far reaching implications. This bill provides a framework for embedding expert viewpoints in understanding the impact of such technologies and developing best practices to protect Maryland's citizens. It advances the State's efforts towards equity, sustainability, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources in the use of advanced technologies.

UMBC is poised and ready to lead a commission established through this Bill. UMBC is not only at the [cutting edge of AI research](#) that receives national and international recognition, but we also bring together expertise in [ethical thinking](#) for data driven systems and [humanistic](#) and [responsible AI](#).

I appreciate your favorable consideration of HB 1132, which will help establish the future of AI in the State using an informed set of experts to advise the State in important decision making around rapidly evolving technologies.

Sincerely,

Valerie Sheares Ashby  
President

Cc: Delegate Terri L. Hill, M.D.

Candace Dodson-Reed, UMBC Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Relations