

SB0879-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

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Position: FAV



Senate Bill 879

Job Help for All

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 28, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 879. This bill would enforce the intent of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future ("The Blueprint") that local workforce development boards receive funds dedicated to student career counseling and readiness and oversee such programs.

The Blueprint places a deeper emphasis on alternative education and workforce development – especially on career and technical education (CTE) and developing pathways for Maryland high schoolers to pursue careers instead of traditional post-secondary college or university. In fact, the education reform law prioritizes career readiness so much that it is one of the law's guiding five pillars.

One way that the Blueprint envisions doing so is by creating Local Career Counseling Agreements in each county between the local board of education, local workforce development board, and the county's community college. The law currently dictates that "Each county board [of education] shall distribute to the local workforce development board for the county..." a per pupil funding amount based on enrollment to provide career counseling and related programming.

SB 879 would require county boards of education to distribute these dedicated funds to local workforce development boards beginning in fiscal year 2025 to carry out this aspect of the Blueprint. In doing so, the legislation clarifies any confusion on which entity is to receive and manage these funds. Counties strongly agree with the Blueprint that local workforce development boards are best equipped to manage such programs, and many have already started partnering with their local workforce development boards and community colleges on CTE and career readiness.

Additionally, counties support SB 879's clarification of the per pupil funding requirements to carry out these programs and the shared costs of doing so. Counties are proud fiduciary supporters of both local workforce development boards and public schools – and many have already increased support for CTE and career readiness, outside of the obligations of the Blueprint.

SB 879 will help ensure that career readiness is prioritized in public education, as intended by the Blueprint, and will clarify expectations on the funding and operations of related programs. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 879 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

2023 - SB 879 - FAV - Employ Prince George's.pdf

Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins

Position: FAV



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 400,
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Walter L. Simmons, President

Senate Bill 879

Committee: Budget and Tax

Date: March 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally recognized community and workforce development programming. At Employ Prince George's, we deliver a demand-driven workforce system that generates economic mobility for workers, delivers qualified workers to businesses, and drives economic success for every Marylander.

As the administrative and fiscal agent of the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Employ Prince George's is responsible for operating the Prince George's County Public Workforce System, which serves over 25,000 job seekers and businesses annually. Employ Prince George's offers a diverse portfolio of workforce development programs that have demonstrated success training and connecting constituents to careers and opportunities that promote economic mobility and ensure success in today's workforce. As a result, Employ Prince George's fully supports Senate Bill 879's (SB 879) expansion of workforce opportunities for all Marylanders.

To connect more Marylanders to sustainable careers within the lottery and gaming industry, SB 879 establishes eligibility criteria for local workforce development boards (LWDB) to access expanded funding for workforce development programs. Specifically, SB 879 defines eligible LWDBs as those that provide career counseling for middle and high school students, prioritize apprenticeships beginning in high school, aid employers in accessing ASVAB scores, and provide career counseling for adults.

Maryland has thirteen (13) LWDBs that provide valuable workforce services in every region of the state and annually connect tens of thousands of Marylanders to sustainable careers. Codified in federal and state law, LWDBs work with businesses to build a competitive workforce, administer apprenticeship programs, and design tailored workforce development programs to that serve numerous industries. At Employ Prince George's jobseekers have access to a diverse portfolio of programs, including but not limited to programs that directly connect jobseekers to careers in Maryland's healthcare, construction, hospitality, cybersecurity, and housing industries.

By providing additional funding opportunities for LWDBs that meet certain eligibility criteria, SB 879 ensures that more Marylanders have access to economic mobility and sustainable career opportunities. **For the aforementioned reasons, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee on SB 879.**

SB879 JOTF Testimony FAV - Job Help for All.pdf

Uploaded by: Ioana Stoica

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 879:

Job Help for All

TO: Chair Guy Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica, Policy Advocate

DATE: March 27, 2023

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates for better jobs, skills training, and wages for low-income workers and job seekers in Maryland. **We support Senate Bill 879 as a means of expanding access to apprenticeship programs and vocational training as alternative pathways to job security and employment.**

Employment in the skilled trades is growing: the ten year projected growth for electricians is 14%, for plumbers is 12%, and for carpenters is 6%. These professions provide good wages and oftentimes benefits that are able to support individuals and their families. In Maryland, on average, wages are \$31.97 per hour for master electricians, \$32.70 for plumbers, and \$24.17 for carpenters - well above the minimum wage.

According to the National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis, approximately 24% of Marylanders overall have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Apprenticeships provide employment opportunities throughout Maryland, and create a pathway to higher wage work for those without a college degree. Too many Marylanders are still struggling to secure full-time employment and build economic security after the Great Recession. With the growing demand for highly-skilled workers in the labor force, participation in apprenticeships is one of the surest ways to build economic security for people living in or near poverty.

Senate Bill 879 will enable more middle and high-school students to explore career opportunities through experiential learning and by developing relationships with and learning directly from those who work directly in high-impact fields. These experiences have a multitude of benefits: they allow students to apply classroom knowledge in a professional setting, to develop their transferable skills, to build confidence, and to refine their career goals. Instead of being tracked directly into low-wage jobs in order to make ends meet, or into higher education programs that students may not know much about or may not be enthusiastic about, Senate Bill 879 would provide students an alternative that would help them in exploring occupational pathways.

JOTF supports the way that Senate Bill 879 addresses the issue of ensuring quality employment for all Marylanders - first, through providing career counseling programs for

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

middle and high school students developed by workforce experts, schools, and registered apprenticeship programs, and second, by ensuring that Workforce Boards receiving funding adhere to certain requirements, including prioritizing high-school apprenticeships.

The Job Help for All bill will allow for policy changes that will lead Marylanders to building economic security. Investing in the careers of these individuals is not only an investment in their futures, but also the State's economy. For these reasons, **we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 879.**

For more information, contact:

Ioana Stoica / Policy Advocate / ioana@jotf.org / 240-643-0059

BDCBT SB 0879 Jobs for All 03282023.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffry Guido

Position: FAV



Maryland Senate - Budget and Tax Committee

Chair: Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair: Jim Rosapepe
Senate Bill 0879 – Jobs for All

Position: Support

- Electrical Workers
- Insulators
- Boilermakers
- United Association
- Roofers
- Cement Masons
- Teamsters
- Laborers
- Bricklayers
- Ironworkers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Elevator Constructors
- Painters
- Operating Engineers
- Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Building Trades and its affiliated local Unions SUPPORT Senate Bill 879. The Building Trades has and continues to work closely with local county work force development boards and have held positions on these boards. We support having our apprenticeship scholarship opportunities made available to high school and middle school students if they to make a career choice in the construction industry. The bill also provides a means for our Training Center directors to have access to eligible students and reach out to those that would otherwise be unaware of the opportunities available.

We urge the Committee for a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffry Guido

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Position: FWA



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SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

**Testimony by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
March 28, 2023**

SB 879 – Job Help for All

POSITION: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, supports SB 879 Job Help for All legislation and respectfully urge consideration of an amendment to keep community colleges as a required partner in these local career counseling agreements.

We support the intent of this legislation which would allow students access to more resources related to workforce development, such as career counseling and apprenticeship services, and that would help them to find and keep good jobs. However, we are concerned at the removal of community colleges from these local career counseling agreements. Community colleges are the largest providers of workforce training in the state, and they play a vital role in helping businesses to meet their workforce needs.

Community Colleges already work closely with the local workforce development boards. These agreements both allow for consistency state in how these boards are utilizing resources locally and provide additional resources to best provide our middle and high school students with career services, and also allows us to continue to work closely with businesses to meet their workforce needs.

MACC requests a favorable position with amendment on SB879.

2023 SB879 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



Opposition Statement SB879

Job Help for All

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant

Maryland Right to Life

We Oppose SB879

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to **SB879**. The Abortion Care Access Act, passed during the 2022 session, removed the physician requirement for performing abortions and created Abortion Care Clinical Training Programs with a protected \$3.5 million training program fund. That law, due to the lack of any medical background as a requirement, has opened the door for any number of apprenticeships or training programs to be used for abortion purposes. Without a stated prohibition, this bill would allow the Career Counseling Program with its "Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors" to be used to recruit participants for the abortion industry workforce. We oppose any funds for this bill being used to fund the training of participants for the abortion industry. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to pay for the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry. We urge an amendment be added to exclude this bill being used for any abortion purposes.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion. Maryland taxpayers are forced to subsidize the abortion industry through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs involved in reproductive health policy include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland, and **taxpayers should not be forced to fund the employees of the abortion industry and provide jobs for them in the school system. California has already begun to do this** (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>). Let's not let this happen in Maryland. The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

Maryland Right to Life urges the addition of an amendment to exclude any funding for this bill to be used for abortion purposes. Without this amendment, we ask that you oppose this **SB879** in its entirety.

Washington Examiner, PP and High Schools (3).pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF

Planned Parenthood plans to infiltrate high schools

by Kate Hardiman, Contributor

December 16, 2019 02:07 PM

Planned Parenthood announced it will be opening 50 clinics in Los Angeles high schools last week. This is just the organization's latest attempt to infuse its values into the public school system.

Though the new "Wellbeing Centers" stop short of offering surgical abortions, they will provide emergency contraception, STI testing and treatment, and a wide range of birth control options. Funded by a \$10 million grant from Los Angeles County and \$6 million from Planned Parenthood, 50 clinics will open over the next three years, available to more than 75,000 students.

Students can walk into the clinics anytime — including during class. Per California law, minors can receive emergency contraception and other forms of birth control, and healthcare providers are not allowed to inform their parents without the minor's permission.

The clinics will also train hundreds of teens to be "peer advocates" about "safe sex and relationships" and will provide "pregnancy counseling." Pro-life advocates believe these are thinly-veiled efforts to drive more business to Planned Parenthood's abortion-providing clinics.

"If LAUSD truly cares about the health of our daughters (and sons) it would not give unfettered access to our kids to an organization that directly benefits from unplanned pregnancies," 28-year California public school teacher and founder of the nonprofit organization For Kids and Country Rebecca Friedrichs said in a statement.

"District officials are quick to point out these clinics won't technically offer abortions on-premises, but no one is fooled that abortion won't be heavily pushed on our daughters and sons by an organization that has made billions off the macabre practice," she concluded.

This move builds upon the controversial sex education framework California forced into its public schools in April. Planned Parenthood helped draft and lobby for this effort — which pushes schools to teach young children about gender identity and how to perform certain types of sexual acts.

Roughly 200 parents marched on Sacramento against the curriculum before it was enacted, and a petition in Fremont, California, garnered more than 8,000 signatures. The outcry over Planned Parenthood's new in-school clinics could be even louder.

Parents should be alarmed by Planned Parenthood's latest effort to usurp their authority as the primary educators of their children, and the Los Angeles school system's acquiescence. As progressive groups continue to co-opt public schools, parents will increasingly face a decision about whether they must leave the system — or risk the state deciding it knows best for their children.

Kate Hardiman is a contributor to the Washington Examiner's Beltway Confidential blog. She taught high school in Chicago for two years while earning her M.Ed. and is now a J.D. candidate at Georgetown University Law Center.