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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**Testimony of Senator Melony G. Griffith in Support of Senate Bill 451
Procurement Improvement Council – Membership
Budget and Taxation Committee
Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, I am pleased to present Senate Bill 451.

Background: Since 2017, there have been efforts to update Maryland's procurement operations.

The mission of the Procurement Improvement Council is to maximize transparency, accountability, insight, and trust in state procurement activities.

In the 2019 report of the President's Advisory Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion, members made recommendations that were adopted in 2020. One recommendation added appointees to the council, who were named by the presiding officers. (Representatives from the Executive Branch and the Office of the State Treasurer are already members of the council.)

SB451 adds the Comptroller to the Procurement Improvement Council. I have also provided for your consideration, an amendment to the bill. If adopted, the mission of the Procurement Improvement Council will be expanded to include strategies to increase the participation of small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses in procurement contracts.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 451. I respectfully request a favorable report.