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Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chairman, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 2401

Support for SB585/HB143 Career and Technical Education Committee Alterations

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my support in favor of SB585/HB143 – Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) - Alterations. As a member of the Prince George's County Public Schools Career and Technical Advisory Board, I understand the importance of exposing high school students – the next generation of Maryland's workforce – to all post-secondary educational opportunities prior to graduating high school. This legislation would help address the skilled labor shortage in Maryland and make essential resources available to assist high school students in exploring post-secondary career options. If passed, the legislation would require two things:

First, SB865/HB143 would require skilled trade organizations and career colleges to be represented on Maryland's Career and Technical Education Committee. Expanding Maryland's Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) to include career and skilled trade schools would help advance the committee's workforce goals by directly including educators among the group of subject-matter stakeholders to work with employers, trade associations, labor organizations, community colleges, and the agriculture community to develop a statewide framework for CTE.

Secondly, this legislation would require the CTE Committee's duties to develop a list of skilled trade organizations and career college programs and share the list with guidance counselors for distribution to high school students. In Prince George's County and throughout the state, there is currently a shortage of skilled laborers; with the passage of SB585/HB143, we would create more opportunities for high school graduates to get access to skill-specific training and subsequently join the workforce.

While there is significant emphasis placed on four-year and two-year colleges, information is often limited on skilled trade and career school programs in Maryland; therefore, students need to be made aware of alternative post-secondary options available to them. By exposing our youth to different career pathways into industries such as HVAC, culinary, electrical, and auto, to name a few, we would help transform the skilled labor workforce in Maryland.

Members of the committee, I urge a favorable report on SB585/HB143.

Sincerely

Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23

