

MWA Members

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel Workforce
Development Corporation
Kirkland Murray, *Executive
Director*

Baltimore City

Mayor's Office of Employment
Development
Jason Perkins-Cohen, *Director*

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Department of
Economic and Workforce
Development
Leonard Howie, *Director*

Carroll County

Carroll County Business /
Employment Resource Center
Heather Lee Powell, *Manager*

Frederick County

Frederick County Workforce
Services
Michelle Day, *Director*

Howard County

Howard County Office of
Workforce Development
Francine Trout, *Director*

Lower Shore

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
(Somerset, Wicomico, &
Worcester, Counties)
Leslie Porter-Cabell, *Workforce
Director*

Montgomery County

WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.
Anthony Featherstone,
Executive Director

Prince George's County

Prince George's County
Workforce Development Board
Walter Simmons, *Executive
Director*

Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Job Source
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's
Counties)
Ruthy Davis, *Director*

Susquehanna Region

Susquehanna Workforce
Network, Inc. (Cecil & Harford
Counties)
Kimberly Justus, *Executive
Director*

Upper Shore

Upper Shore Workforce
Investment Board (Caroline,
Dorchester, Kent, Queen
Anne's, & Talbot Counties)
Dan Schneckeburger,
Executive Director

Western Maryland

Western Maryland Consortium
(Allegany, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Deborah Gilbert, *Executive
Director*

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members:

The Maryland Workforce Association, an association of the 13 public workforce system directors of Maryland's 13 Local Workforce Development Boards and Areas, would like to express its SUPPORT of Senate Bill 121: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023. We also would like to thank Senator Jim Rosapepe for his steadfast support of Maryland's Public Workforce System and its 13 Local Workforce Development Boards.

The bill seeks to establish a pipeline of talent by providing Registered Apprenticeship and employment opportunities for high school students. The bill also seeks to create parity between Registered Apprenticeships and other post-secondary pathways, by requiring certain school systems to pay for Registered Apprenticeship entrance exams if the school system also provides the same benefit for other exams like advanced placement.

As you know, Registered Apprenticeships provide youth and adults with the ability to earn while they learn. While the workforce system has worked to grow the number of apprenticeships in Maryland, there is much more work to be done. We thank the sponsor for offering this thoughtful piece of legislation and respectfully request the Committee's support of this measure.

If you have any questions about the Association's support of this measure, please contact Brandon Butler, Maryland Workforce Association's Executive Director at brandon@pinnaclestrategiesconsulting.com.

Sincerely,



Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association