



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 121 – *More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 121.

Senate Bill 121 requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

Our member companies span industries such as life sciences, biotechnology, information technology, software, telecommunications, and others. Like so many industries currently, each is dealing with workforce needs and a shortage of skilled workers. A postsecondary degree or advanced degree is not required for all jobs in the technology sector. In fact, there are many careers in the technology industry that value experience, certifications, and technical skills. This bill will go a long way to better equipping Maryland students interested in pursuing such tech jobs that do not require postsecondary education. A favorable report is requested.