



TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

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

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 188 – *Public Health – Rare Disease Advisory Council*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) writes in **support** of *Senate Bill 188: Public Health – Rare Disease Advisory Council*. We are a community of over 700 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland's innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

Senate Bill 188 establishes a Rare Disease Advisory Council to study and make recommendations on matters relating to individuals with rare diseases in the State. We are strongly in favor of any efforts in Maryland to better understand the impact of rare diseases on Maryland residents, the needs presented to caregivers and health care providers, and the role that technology plays in addressing those challenges. MTC has numerous member companies actively engaged in researching these issues and developing solutions. We appreciate that the sponsor included seats at the table for industries engaged in this critical and lifesaving work. By bringing together this diverse group of stakeholders, we can ensure that the challenges faced by patients impacted by rare diseases are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. As a result of these efforts, we believe Maryland can be a national leader in developing solutions to the problems faced by those affected by rare diseases.

We urge a favorable report.