



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

*In Support of
Senate Bill 376—Higher Education—Mpowering Joint Steering Council--Funding*

*January 23, 2024
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the 600+ members of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the proposed amendment to **Senate Bill 376, Higher Education – Mpowering Joint Steering Council – Funding**.

Located in the Pike District, North Bethesda's urban core, The University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing (IHC) is a transformational life science partnership founded to research and improve the health of citizens in Maryland and beyond. The bill seeks to codify dedicated operational funding for the IHC in graduated amounts commencing in FY 2026.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the mission of IHC in North Bethesda and requests the committee's passage of Senate Bill 376.