

Maryland General Assembly
Economic Matters Committee

Written Testimony of Bowie High Student Government Executive Board
Julien Rene, Treasurer

In SUPPORT of HB0650

“Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons”

February 21, 2024 1:00 pm

Thank you Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB0650 Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons.

My name is Julien Rene, I am a student at Bowie High School, and I support the apprenticeship bill (HB0650) before the economic matters committee. I am testifying about how this bill passing would greatly assist those around me. This bill would greatly assist in the proliferation of high quality alternative means of education for people in my community.

I have a friend who wants to go into trades after she graduates from high school. She is an undocumented immigrant who already has limited access to services we as citizens take for granted. It would be imperative for this apprenticeship bill to be passed so that she can have access to a concrete way of getting quality apprenticeships for her line of work. She wants to be an electrician and it would be a shame to see her opportunities stay limited for her future.

I thank anyone that reads this full testimony, as I personally find the well-being of those around me and in my community to be very important. Passing this bill would make going into trades a more attractive option for the people in my community. While I personally do not aspire to go into trades or other fields that require apprenticeships, I know many that do; and streamlining the process of achieving and moving forward with apprenticeships (via the passing of this bill) would be vital to the futures of career minded young people like my friend.

Thank you for your time and consideration.