

MARYLAND WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

Kirkland Murray, *President*
Brandon Butler, *Executive Director*
www.marylandworkforceassociation.org

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Anne Arundel Workforce
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Kirkland Murray, *Executive Director*

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Baltimore County Department of
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Howard County Office of Workforce
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Washington Counties)
Deborah Gilbert, *Executive Director*

February 5, 2023

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairmain Wilson and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Workforce Association, an association of the thirteen Local Workforce Development Boards in Maryland, would like to express its SUPPORT of House Bill 650: Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons

Maryland has a lofty goal to grow Registered Apprenticeship opportunities by 2030. Maryland's local workforce boards are here to assist by providing connections with Maryland's employers and jobseekers. However, in order to achieve Maryland's goal, systematic change needs to be made to the apprenticeship ratio for non-traditional apprenticeship opportunities. House Bill 650, and its companion legislation in the Senate, balances the need to grow apprenticeship opportunities and protect apprenticeship safety. For those reasons, we believe that this measure gives the public workforce system an important tool to meet the State's apprenticeship goal.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this measure. We, again, respectfully request a favorable report of this bill. If you have any questions about the Association's support of this measure, please contact Brandon Butler, Maryland Workforce Association's Executive Director at mwaexecdirector@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


Kirkland Murray, *President*
Maryland Workforce Association