

*Thank you, Chair Senator Feldman, Vice Chair Senator Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 980.*

My name is Ed Mullin. I am a Executive Director for the non-profit Baltimore Robotics Center. I am a Maryland citizen and technology professional. I have run software development teams at companies like Becton Dickinson, UPS and PHH/Element. I am colleagues with many CIO's and CTO's in the Greater Baltimore area. In my role as Executive Director of the Baltimore Robotics Center, I have seen the impact of STEM education as a pathway for youth from underserved communities to lucrative careers in computer science, engineering and cyber.



Competitive Robotics in Baltimore City Public Schools has been very successful. There are more than **700 City Schools students on more than 140 teams from 70-plus schools** in the competitive robotics program this year - a near 40% increase over last year. And at this year's Maryland State Robotics Championships, 46 teams were from City Schools! On the Elementary /Middle school level the BCPSS teams took home almost all the awards and qualifications to the World

Championships in Dallas.

The Competitive Robotics program in Baltimore City Schools is over 15 years old and has many successful alumni working at organizations like NSA, SSA, Becton Dickinson, Stanley Black and Decker, NASA and Blue Origin. Colleges know this program well and they reward top players with admission and scholarships. In short, this league has a history of leading to generational wealth for students from underserved communities in Baltimore and other areas around Maryland.

More funding for Computer Science education and competitive robotics will lead to more successful students, more STEM employees and ultimately to more Maryland tax revenues.

This is truly the sport where everyone can go pro.