

February 27th, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle Chair, Senate Finance Committee 3 East, Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Katherine A Klausmeier Vice-Chair, Senate Finance Committee James Senate Office Building, Room 123 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: VOTE YES ON SB0765 — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - BUSINESS DIVERSITY INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As President of Inncuvate Community Development Partners, a non-profit organization, located in Prince George's County and the community of entrepreneurs I support, I respectfully request your support of SB0765, The Business Diversity Incubator Program Bill. This legislation is necessary to support Maryland's economic development for businesses in diverse communities. This historic legislation will be utilized to make Maryland business creation more equitable, competitive, and up to date with modern enterprise standards and protocols.

Inncuvate is focused on the future of work and entrepreneurial ecosystems as we believe in the power of technology-based enterprises as anchors in economic empowerment and community growth engines. Our organization is a full stack entrepreneurship-led economic empowerment enterprise that specializes in creating purpose-built programs and places that attract the best talent and create an environment that encourages innovation, collaboration, and the commercialization of new ideas. We have developed incubators at Prince George's Community College. Currently, we are deploying our statewide incubator platform, Inncuvate Venture Studios, with our first location in Prince George's County and seeking another location in Western Maryland.

I'm in support of SB0765. The enactment of SB0765 will offer non-profit organizations, like Inncuvate, the financial capabilities and tenable opportunities for the next generation of pioneers and dreamers. More importantly, this legislation will accelerate pathways to grow the number of minority entrepreneurs throughout the State of Maryland. Please vote in favor of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Mark Lawrence

President

Inncuvate Community Development Partners, Inc.