

I am writing to express my enthusiastic **support** for the Senate Bill 358 which requires the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to include an option for applicants to provide demographic information. As a Black woman and founder in the technology industry, and specifically as a founder who has developed tech to help organizations use data to drive equitable results, I believe that this initiative is a significant step towards fostering equity within the Maryland technology ecosystem.

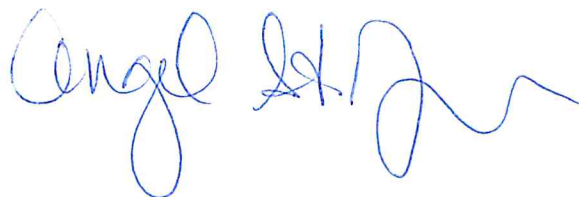
The technology sector has long grappled with issues of underrepresentation, particularly for individuals from marginalized communities. Despite the undeniable talent and innovation that diverse founders bring to the table, there has been a persistent lack of diversity in investment decisions and access to resources. This proposed legislation represents a proactive approach to addressing this disparity.

Including an option for demographic information in the investment application process will provide valuable insights into the diversity of applicants seeking and receiving support from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation. This data can serve as a foundation for evidence-based policies that promote equitable access to opportunities for entrepreneurs from all backgrounds and will position TEDCO as a leader amongst its peers in using data to drive equitable growth. Furthermore, by prohibiting adverse actions against applicants who choose not to disclose this information, the legislation ensures a respectful and inclusive application process.

The requirement for the Corporation to submit a report to the Governor, the Maryland Economic Development Commission, and the General Assembly is an important mechanism for allowing a range of stakeholders to benefit from the Corporation's efforts in supporting diverse entrepreneurs. By collecting and analyzing demographic information, we can better understand the challenges faced by underrepresented founders and implement targeted initiatives to address those challenges. This legislation has the potential to create a more inclusive and thriving technology ecosystem in Maryland, fostering innovation from a diverse range of perspectives.

As a tech founder who is deeply invested in the success of the technology community in Maryland, I know that together, we can build a more inclusive and equitable future for the technology industry in our state. For these reasons, I urge a **favorable** report on SB358

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that this legislation will have on our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angel [unclear]", written in a cursive style.