



GREATER WASHINGTON
Board of Trade

HB581– Transparent Government Act of 2024
Health and Government Operations Committee
Position: **Favorable**
Greater Washington Board of Trade
February 9th, 2024

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members,

The Greater Washington Board of trade is a pro-business and non-partisan organization supporting all industry sectors in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia, having done so for the last 134 years. We support HB581.

Permitting, licensing, and certification, while vital to the protection of the public can represent a major stumbling block or chokepoint slowing the process of individuals' efforts to do business in the state. This legislation takes the first steps toward streamlining these, often onerous and long winded, processes, allowing those wishing to do business, providing employment and tax revenue to do so, without undue hinderance.

Especially as neighboring jurisdictions are undertaking to similarly streamline licensing and credentialing processes, the work of a potential Government Efficiency Commission is vital to keeping Maryland competitive both within the region and nationally. Allowing residents to get to get to work creating jobs and providing critical services, especially with regard to healthcare workers and tradespeople, has substantial upside potential for retaining highly trained and skilled workers within the region in the face of problematic outmigration to competitor regions and cities across the nation.

We are further heartened to see the inclusion of representatives of Maryland's vibrant business community on the commission and hope that this will stand to further collaboration between the public and private sector, allowing expertise and know how from all interested parties to be brought to bear on these much needed improvements to vital regulatory processes. Please support HB581.